

Good University Guide
The universities students are chasing
page 36

CRUNCH WEEK FOR MICROSOFT
Anatole Kaletsky page 20

Would you have Liz Hurley at your wedding?
Upstaging the bride
page 19

TAKE OFF!
Return flights from £60
Token page 37

Cabinet intelligence group assessed secret papers

Sandline briefing was sent to Cook

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PAPERS detailing the involvement of Sandline International in Sierra Leone were sent to Robin Cook's private office in early March, according to Whitehall sources. Similar papers, drawn up by Foreign Office officials, were sent to the office of Tony Lloyd, the minister responsible for Africa.

The Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee has also assessed secret information about Sandline and Sierra Leone within the last six months. Digests of fully analysed intelligence information are passed in the weekly "Red Book" of secret material to Tony Blair, Mr Cook, the Defence Secretary and other Cabinet ministers.

The latest revelations to emerge from the arms-to-Africa affair will put Mr Cook and his junior minister in an even more embarrassing position, especially since the Foreign Secretary has publicly accused his officials of failing

to inform him about the shipment of arms by Sandline to Sierra Leone in February. The arms were used to overthrow the military junta that had seized power from President Kabbah last May.

Customs and Excise investigators are examining all the paperwork relating to the

initialled the papers sent to their offices in March. The sources said that when Mr Cook became Foreign Secretary, he broke with a long tradition and declined to initial the papers sent to him by his Private Secretary. The only way officials knew that he had gone through papers was when they received comments from his private office.

The convention is that even if a minister makes no comment on a paper that is returned to the private office from his Red Box, he is still assumed to have read it, although the Whitehall source said that in Mr Cook's case it was impossible to be sure. Mr Lloyd, on the other hand, tended to put his initials on papers — although not on every document, the sources said. All these papers will be available for the Customs investigators.

Both Mr Cook and Mr Lloyd have said that they knew nothing of the Customs

investigation until recently — Mr Lloyd in mid-April and the Foreign Secretary on Friday May 1. The Foreign Office insisted last night that no paper on Sandline had been put into Mr Cook's Red Box until late April. This was the letter from Sandline's lawyers about the company's contacts with officials from the Foreign Office's Africa Department.

Confirmation that the Joint Intelligence Committee — which has representatives from the intelligence services, the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence and Department of Trade and Industry — had discussed both Sandline and Sierra Leone shows that the issue was being studied throughout the Government, even if there was no prior ministerial knowledge of the arms shipment.

All the intelligence agencies would have been involved in monitoring Sierra Leone, sources said, even if it was on a relatively small scale. M16, for example, does not have an extensive African operation. But the Africa desks at M16 and at the MoD's Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) would have been passing on any information gleaned by their operatives.

Similarly, any relevant information picked up by GCHQ in Cheltenham, would have been analysed by the DIS and then filtered for further assessment by the JIC.

One senior political figure said intelligence on Sierra Leone since the May coup would only have been sent further up the chain of seniority if it was regarded as of priority interest. "Very often intelligence on Africa would stay at the bottom of the pile."

There is real anger in the Foreign Office over the impression given that the officials named by Sandline as having been briefed about the shipment of arms are facing a criminal investigation by Customs and Excise.

Foreign Office sources said that the individual officials were not regarded as "suspects" and that they had turned down the offer from Mr Cook to be represented by criminal lawyers. It is understood that some of the named officials have voluntarily given Customs written statements but none has been summoned for interview.

Mr Blair was accused of undermining the Customs investigation into the affair when he praised Mr Penfold, who allegedly urged President Kabbah to seek the assistance of the "military consultants" Sandline International. He had done a superb job, the Prime Minister said.

Sandline, which supplied arms, equipment and mercenaries to President Kabbah's forces, maintains that the company was acting with government approval. Yesterday, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister, issued the strongest denial so far of ministerial involvement. She said there was no prior knowledge of, or approval for, any breaches of the United Nations arms embargo on Sierra Leone.

from the sale of children's swimming badges. The commentator was also allowed to claim £6,000 for the use of his house (a 16-bedroom mansion) and to employ his wife Nikki at a salary of £13,350. The report found no wrongdoing by Mr Bland in relation to the awards scheme, but said the ASA's deal with him was too generous.

Karen Pickering, former world freestyle champion, was among the swimmers to criticise the ASA. She said: "I do think the ASA have a case to answer. Bland got the money, but they allowed him to do so. When we, the swimmers, sub-

mit expenses, we have to account for every penny. It's second class-travel, no car parking, no food. That's the deal."

And Nick Gillingham, whose family went without holidays for nine years while he was training for the 1988 and 1992 Olympics, said: "I'm aggrieved and disappointed. Certain people at the ASA have been really naive over all this."

The 180-page independent report by the solicitor Mark Gay, commissioned after an investigation last July by *The Times* and *World in Action*,

Control how national newspapers behave". She made clear that the Government would overturn the amendment and was not proposing an alternative. But she argued that the Bill would, in effect, ban predatory pricing. By enshrining European jurisprudence into British Law, it meant Britain would have to accept a judgment — the *Terra Pak* ruling — which limits price cutting by insisting that any market-dominant company consistently lowering its price below

average variable costs would be in breach of the law. Giles Radice, Labour MP for Durham North and a leading potential rebel, was sympathetic to the amendment but said that the Bill as it stood would prevent predatory pricing by any newspapers. "For the first time, I have understood that in this legislation there is possibly quite a powerful mechanism for dealing with predatory pricing if predatory pricing is proved."

Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sud-

derland and the other rebel ringleader, said the acid test was whether the Bill stopped predatory pricing of the sort that News International had been engaging in systematically since 1993. Mrs Becken emphasised the Bill neither discriminated in favour nor against Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

Matthew Parris, page 2 Debate, page 10

Blair changes tack on Sierra Leone affair

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR completely changed the Government's approach to the arms-to-Africa row yesterday by saying officials had been right to try to restore Sierra Leone's democratic regime and lavishing praise on Peter Penfold, Britain's High Commissioner in the country.

After a week of suggesting that the charges of official connivance in the supply of arms to the ousted regime were of the utmost seriousness, Mr Blair dismissed the row as a "hoo-ha". Instead, he and the Government's briefing machine focused on the outcome of the counter-coup: the return to power of President Kabbah who had been overthrown by the country's military last year.

The Prime Minister's intervention, which included a strong affirmation of support for Robin Cook, was seen by some MPs as an argument for the end — reinstating Mr



"Regrettably, none of my teachers brought any of the answers to my attention"

Kabbah — justifying the means. If so, Mr Blair appeared to be ditching the Foreign Secretary's much vaunted ethical foreign policy which Mr Cook has said means that the national interest cannot be defined only by "narrow realpolitik".

Mr Cook will come under further pressure today when he takes Foreign Office ques-

tions in the Commons. It is clear that the issue will drag on because ministers confirmed yesterday that the independent inquiry will have to await the conclusion of the Customs inquiry into the alleged embargo breaches.

Mr Blair was accused of undermining the Customs investigation into the affair when he praised Mr Penfold, who allegedly urged President Kabbah to seek the assistance of the "military consultants" Sandline International. He had done a superb job, the Prime Minister said.

Sandline, which supplied arms, equipment and mercenaries to President Kabbah's forces, maintains that the company was acting with government approval.

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There are nearly 700 illuminated pages in the Sherborne Missal. It weighs 40lb

Millions needed to save Gothic treasure for nation

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is in danger of losing the finest English Gothic manuscript — an illuminated prayer book which scholars regard as the most magnificent English work of art from the late Middle Ages.

The Sherborne Missal has been on loan to the British Library since 1983 but the owner, the Duke of Northumberland, has decided to sell it. Dedicating negotiations have been going on for up to a year about a possible purchase by the nation.

Art market sources said that the prayer book was worth well in excess of £10 million. The Duke yesterday confirmed that he was negotiating



a sale with the Government to cover inheritance tax following the death of his elder brother from an accidental drugs overdose.

"When I inherited the title [in 1996], we incurred a massive inheritance tax liability. I felt that doing an in lieu of inheritance tax transfer was the best solution," he said.

The missal was created for the Benedictine abbey of St Mary at Sherborne, Dorset, and dates from 1396 to 1406. Nothing compares to its scale — 2ft high and more than 40lb in weight — its textual complexity and the extent of the illumination which covers every space on nearly 700 pages. Brian Lang, director of the

Continued on page 3, col 3

India nuclear tests confirm arms race

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDIA conducted three underground nuclear tests in the Rajasthan desert yesterday, defying Western warnings that it could face severe international sanctions. A nuclear and missile arms race is now firmly underway between India and its old enemy, Pakistan.

Pakistan immediately issued a warning that it reserved the right to take all appropriate measures for its security and said that it would make the country's defence impregnable against any nuclear threat from India.

Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, said Pakistan had been "sucked into a nuclear weapons race and a missile race."

President Clinton said he was "deeply disappointed", and the US is considering imposing economic sanctions against the sub-continent. The CIA now regards the India-Pakistan frontier, where tension has been rising sharply since early April, as the world's most likely nuclear flashpoint.

West ignored, page 16

Not so tolerant

The liberal Dutch authorities are clamping down on rowdy, drunken youths, petty crime and hooligans in a move resembling New York's "zero tolerance" policy. Page 14

TV & RADIO	54.55
CROSSWORDS	28.56
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
LIBBY PURVES	20
ARTS	37.39
CHESS & BRIDGE	53
COURT & SOCIAL	22
BUSINESS	29.33
BODY & MIND	18
LAW REPORT	24

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Double sacking for Bland

By CRAIG LORD AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

HAMILTON BLAND was sacked as a BBC commentator after 23 years yesterday, as the Amateur Swimming Association said that it intended to report him to the police for accepting bribes.

The sport's ruling body also severed all links with the businessman for taking "secret commissions" from a supplier of movable floors while acting as a trusted and apparently independent consultant to local authorities.

Olympic swimmers and coaches also called for reform of the ASA after an inquiry discovered that Mr Bland made £1.1 million in five years

from the sale of children's swimming badges. The commentator was also allowed to claim £6,000 for the use of his house (a 16-bedroom mansion) and to employ his wife Nikki at a salary of £13,350. The report found no wrongdoing by Mr Bland in relation to the awards scheme, but said the ASA's deal with him was too generous.

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Rebellion on newspaper price cutting fades

By JILL SHERMAN

A THREATENED Labour rebellion over newspaper price-cutting faded last night after Margaret Beckett reassured MPs that the Competition Bill would strengthen the law against predatory pricing.

The President of the Board of Trade said the Government would not accept a Lords amendment specifically banning newspaper predatory pricing as it "would give the state the power to

control how national newspapers behave". She made clear that the Government would overturn the amendment and was not proposing an alternative. But she argued that the Bill would, in effect, ban predatory pricing. By enshrining European jurisprudence into British Law, it meant Britain would have to accept a judgment — the *Terra Pak* ruling — which limits price cutting by insisting that any market-dominant company consistently lowering its price below

average variable costs would be in breach of the law. Giles Radice, Labour MP for Durham North and a leading potential rebel, was sympathetic to the amendment but said that the Bill as it stood would prevent predatory pricing by any newspapers. "For the first time, I have understood that in this legislation there is possibly quite a powerful mechanism for dealing with predatory pricing if predatory pricing is proved."

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derland and the other rebel ringleader, said the acid test was whether the Bill stopped predatory pricing of the sort that News International had been engaging in systematically since 1993. Mrs Becken emphasised the Bill neither discriminated in favour nor against Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

Matthew Parris, page 2 Debate, page 10



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Armies of Lucifer evade the clutches of predatory witchfinders

Every now and then a group of men so engaged the horror of part of the House that rational discourse becomes impossible. It happened in 17th century England as Titus Oates's alleged Popish Plot terrified the tribunes of the people. In the 18th and 19th centuries Napoleon captured the political imagination: the spectre of Old Boney coming for us in the night was used by generations of nannies to frighten children.

A century later it was hard to discuss Pol Pot with any degree of detachment. Then

there was the supposed invasion of giant African cockroaches, followed by a flesh-eating virus. After that it was Cedric Brown, former chief executive of British Gas briefly Bogeyman to the Nation. More recently parliamentary horror fixed itself on a supposed international conspiracy of paedophiles.

And for as long as the collective chill runs down the collective Commons spine, logic is skewed towards the urgency of finding a means — any means — of combatting the threat. Caught like small rodents in the gaze of the

serpent, MPs quiver with fear, rage and indignation. Now, stalking on stage to a rattle of drums, the screams of children and the hiss of the front below the gangway, comes Rupert Murdoch and his (eek) News Corporation.

In exchanges on the Competition Bill, introduced into the Commons yesterday by Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, The News Corporation and its Chairman (parent company of *The Times*) were treated by a vocal group of MPs as a sort of national emergency. If nobody actually suggested that



food-aid be airlifted by the RAF into the offices of *The Independent*, then that was because the idea has not yet occurred to them.

It surely will. Almost before Mrs Beckett could draw breath outlining the Bill, Chris Mullin (Lab, Sunderland S), a sort of Witchfinder-General in the Commons Murdoch-Watch task force, leaped up to tell her the "acid

test" of the whole huge measure would be whether it "addressed the abuse" — resulting from The News Corporation's activities. If this Bill would not stop Murdoch it must go "back to the drawing board". Against this, Beckett struggled to make headway, remarking mildly that the Bill empowered the Director General of Fair Trading to judge, but could

not tell him what judgment to reach.

Why ever not? To Murdoch-Watch that was impossibly feeble. The purpose of this Bill was to get The News Corporation — and now here was the Secretary of State babbling about legality. David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) smelt a rat. "The Tories didn't mention Murdoch," he observed conspiratorially. What could this mean? "The *Independent* will go out of business and I don't think that's a good thing."

Beckett protested that the effect would be to place the State in the position of freezing

the status quo in the newspaper industry and prevent the rise and fall of tides. But David Chidgey (Lib Dem, Eastleigh) offered his QED for the wisdom of the Lords' new clause Rupert Murdoch was "happy with the Bill" before the clause arrived — and was unhappy now. So the clause must be right!

Beckett's exasperation began to show. The debate was "inflamed". "We are not sent here to use the vehicle of a passing law to single out an individual," Murdoch-Watch shook their heads. What's a

passing law for but to single out an individual? Mr Mullin eyed her with the despair one might reserve for a police officer who waits at a red traffic light while a serial killer speeds away. Here we were in the middle of a war on all fronts against the armies of Lucifer — and this woman mused legalisms as though The News Corporation were just another company!

As I left the debate, it looked as though the flesh-eating virus, the giant african cockroach, Pol Pot and The News Corporation had escaped again.

Inspectors lead drive to improve care of elderly

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

KEEP FIT PUSH

THE first nationwide scheme for ensuring standards in care homes is to be set up in an attempt to improve standards for more than 500,000 elderly and disabled people.

The new inspectorate follows a report from a Government taskforce which found alarming differences in the quality of care offered in Britain's 30,000 residential and nursing homes.

A team of inspectors is to take over the regulation of these homes from local authorities after the inquiry found an inconsistent approach. The move is one of a new package of policies being prepared by the Government to help the elderly.

The Government has begun a campaign to encourage working-class and unemployed men aged over 40 to be more aware of their health, with a booklet entitled *Life Begins at 40*. Poorer men die younger and suffer more illness than the better-off. The campaign was launched by Trevor Brooking, 49, the former England footballer and vice-chairman of the Sports Council, and Tessa Jewell, the Public Health Minister, at Langham Working Men's Club in North London.

regulations could be affecting many long-term sick and elderly who live in residential or nursing homes.

One problem is that there are different rules for nursing homes and residential homes, covering such aspects as safety, cleanliness and administration of medicines and drugs. Yet an individual in a residential home is often in need of the same level of nursing care of someone placed in a nursing home.

A new system of licensing homes is also recommended.

A Whitehall source said last night: "This would help individuals who too often find they are in the wrong type of home for the care they need. It would prevent establishments from becoming boxed in and would allow a residential home to be licensed to offer nursing care."

The taskforce was also concerned by the varying levels of standard on offer in homes. Care providers complained they were inundated with so many new rules and regulations they were often confused and unclear as to which were statutory duties and which were merely examples of best practice.

The taskforce has assessed the various rules and statutes that govern long term care and is determined there should be a simplified system ensuring higher quality and uniform standards nationally.

Last night Tessa Harding, policy director for Help the Aged, welcomed plans for new national standards and a care watchdog. The Government is still awaiting the results of a separate report from the Royal Commission set up by Tony Blair to look at long-term care.



Tony Blair meeting Sanna Farjari, 17, yesterday at the Queen's Park site of the City of Westminster College, London, which includes teenage students brought from other schools to be reintroduced to education

Parents of truants may lose custody

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

PARENTS could lose custody of their children if they persistently let them play truant. The penalty is one of a series of new measures from the Government to tackle truancy and school exclusions.

Alun Michael, Minister of State at the Home Office, said last night that in extreme cases, where parents were in breach of court orders about their children's attendance, "we might have to take the child from the parents. The ultimate sanction will be to begin care proceedings."

Under plans for new parenting orders announced yesterday, parents might be obliged to escort their children to school. Mr Michael said the Government expected to announce further details of possible sanctions against parents. The Home

Office will shortly give police guidelines on how they should go about arresting children found roaming the streets when they should be at school. The new powers are to be included in the Crime and Disorder Bill proceeding through Parliament.

Mr Michael would not be drawn on whether police would be allowed to use restraint or to handcuff youngsters who would not co-operate with them. He said that solutions for truancy might vary in different localities. A police officer would return a pupil to school or to a local education authority centre.

A scheme in Staffordshire, where police and education welfare staff formed joint patrols to challenge children in the streets, could be taken up nationally, he

said. Shopkeepers were involved in the scheme and refused to serve children of school age during school hours.

School league tables showing the worst truancy records and numbers of children excluded were also promised yesterday. Inspectors from the school standards watchdog, Ofsted, will report on the ten schools with the worst records.

Ministers recommended the use of school "sanctuary" rooms, where pupils could be sent to cool off under supervision instead of being expelled. This would ensure that pupils remained inside the school premises, learning, rather than roaming the streets.

Ministers believe that by dealing with truancy and exclusions they will also tackle other social problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospitals failing to learn from mistakes

Mistakes in hospitals are too often made worse because errors are compounded, according to the annual report of the Health Service Ombudsman published today.

Reviewing eight cases in 1996-97 where the Ombudsman strongly criticised care, the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration said: "In some cases we have seen signs of failure by management to keep its eye on the quality of service provided, not just the clinical care but the whole experience of dealing with the Health Service. All too often in these cases guidance already existed and was not being followed."

Named men told to attend inquiry

Five men named in connection with the murder of Stephen Lawrence have been issued with summonses ordering them to attend the public inquiry in South London. Gary Dobson, Neil Accout, both 22, and Luke Knight, 20, were formally cleared of the murder after a private prosecution collapsed. Cases against David Norris and Jamie Account, both 21, were thrown out.

Harrow pupil found hanging

A pupil at Harrow School was found hanging with his own tie. The headmaster, Nicholas Bomford, said an investigation had been launched after the boy, 15, was found in his room kneeling on the ground with a tie tight around his neck. He said the situation had not been life-threatening and no one else was involved. The boy was released from hospital yesterday.

BA acts to clear cheap flight path

British Airways began a High Court action to prevent EasyJet blocking the launch of Go, its "no frills" service, next week. EasyJet had earlier issued High Court proceedings accusing BA of using its profits to subsidise the low-fare service and seeking an injunction against the Go operation. BA's move aims to force its rival to drop the action.

Actress tells of losing her sight

The actress Peggy Mount, known for her battle-axe roles, revealed that she lost her sight 18 months ago. Her vision had worsened but she finally went blind on stage at Chichester, she told the *Daily Mail*. "The audience had no idea. But soon the word got out and I lost my nerve." The actress, in her 80s, suffers from detached retinas, so that she has no vision in the centre of her eyes.

Minister calls for price cut in suncreams to protect public

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SUNCREAM manufacturers faced a call from the Government yesterday to cut their prices by up to 50 per cent to encourage people to protect themselves from harmful rays.

As Britain basked in the warmest weather of the year, Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, wrote to manufacturers and retailers asking them to stop marketing sunscreen lotions as fashion products. Mr Griffiths acted after the Department of Health reported that 40,000 people a year develop skin cancer, of whom 2,000 die.

Mr Griffiths urged manufacturers to follow the example of the Co-op supermarket, which has announced that it is selling sun-protection creams

at cost price until the end of summer. The move has reduced prices by up to 50 per cent on leading brands. A bottle of 200ml Piz Buin Sun Lotion, with a protection factor of 25, which normally costs £12.29, now costs £6.39.

Mr Griffiths said: "Sun-tan creams must not be seen as a fashion product. I have written to sunscreen manufacturers and retailers' representatives urging them to take all practical steps to bring the cost of sun creams down."

The Co-op said it had decided to reduce its prices because many people are ignoring repeated warnings about the dangers of over-exposure to the sun. The spokesman said: "This is a particularly worrying trait in young people who

could be storing serious problems for the future. By offering sun protection creams at cost, we are demonstrating our commitment to helping people protect themselves."

Cancer Research strongly welcomed Mr Griffiths's initiative. A spokeswoman said: "We welcome anything that raises awareness about the dangers of the sun and the need for sun protectors. What we are saying to people is the lower-priced creams offer just as much protection as the expensive brands. At the top of the range, you are paying for the perfume, consistency and brand name."

Mr Griffiths's move contrasted with a warning last year from Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical

Officer, who said that sun-bathers who use sunscreen protection may run an increased risk of skin cancer. Sir Kenneth said that suncreams created a "false sense of security," which encouraged people to stay in the sun. He also said that while sunscreens prevent sunburn there was no evidence that they protect against skin cancer.

Sir Kenneth's comments were followed by a claim from two dermatologists at Newcastle University that sunscreen manufacturers were exaggerating the risks of skin cancer to increase sales. Sam Shuster and Jonathan Rees said there was no proven link between malignant melanoma, the most serious skin cancer, and the sun's rays.

Double sacking for Bland

Continued from page 1

concluded that Mr Bland had broken his duties of good faith to the ASA.

He was employed as its facilities consultant, which made him one of the first to know about new pool projects around the country. He was able to offer himself as an adviser to local councils and then received 5 per cent commissions from a Hertfordshire businessman who won swimming pool contracts.

He resigned from the post within 48 hours of the investigation being published last summer, but remained promoter of the awards scheme and the ASA's merchandising operation, which sells swimming gear under the "SwimGB" brand.

At noon yesterday, his involvement with the ASA was severed in a fax to his home. Honley Hall in Warwickshire. The ASA will report him to the police when it decides



Bland: "I served the ASA diligently"

and the BBC. And within hours, the BBC had announced that it had decided that it would be "inappropriate to continue to employ Hamilton Bland as a swimming commentator."

David Sparkes, chief executive of the ASA, said: "Hamilton Bland was in a position of trust and influence, a position he has clearly abused." Mr Sparkes, who had previously defended the commentator, added that nobody at the ASA was planning to resign. "Hamilton is a very persuasive character. He is a very able man. The association was probably more than happy to get the advice of someone who clearly had great ability."

In a statement, Mr Bland said: "I have served the ASA faithfully and diligently, acting in its best interests at all times. I absolutely deny that I have brought the ASA or myself into disrepute."

Those who evolve succeed.

THE TIMES

Wife laced husband's dinner with 18 pills

Why male a

Millions need

Wife laced husband's dinner with 18 pills

BY A STAFF REPORTER
A FORMER beauty consultant laced her wealthy property developer husband's mashed potato with potent sleeping pills to get a bit of "peace and quiet" the night after they had had a row.

Council chief tells how colleague molested her

Tribunal is told that officer was sworn to secrecy to avoid risk of scandal, writes Michael Horsnell

THE deputy chief executive of a Labour council told an industrial tribunal yesterday how she was sexually molested by a fellow senior officer at a conference.



Amanda Kelly, who says she was humiliated when she complained of sex abuse

Harrow tutor 'paid parents' cash to wife'

MASTERS at Harrow School were allowed to profit by thousands of pounds from trips abroad they organised for pupils, a court was told yesterday.



Jackson: denies stealing £35,000

Why male attraction is the pits

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT
AN AFTERSHAVE lotion that really attracts women has been confirmed by scientists. And far from the powerful-smelling lotions whose scents are supposed to lure the opposite sex, the key ingredient in the test was odourless.

Millions needed to save treasure

Continued from page 1
British Library, spoke of a possible arrangement in which part of the cost of missal would be covered in lieu of tax and the remainder would be provided by the Library.

Advertisement for Virgin Direct Personal Pension. Text includes: "Start a pension now then you can grow old gracefully.", "The sooner you start a pension, the earlier you can retire", "and the more money you'll have", "You haven't got time to read this. Get on the phone.", "Virgin Direct Personal Pension", "one account", "pensions".

Woman wrongly told unborn baby was dead

By MARK HENDERSON

A WOMAN yesterday told the High Court how surgeons botched an unnecessary operation after doctors wrongly told her that her unborn baby was dead.

Suzy Hagstrom, 39, said the painful surgery caused lasting physical and psychological damage which eventually forced her to give up her £46,000-a-year job as marketing manager for a real estate firm.

Mrs Hagstrom, who lives in California, was in Britain while eight weeks pregnant to visit her widowed mother when she was told by doctors at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford that her child had died and that she needed surgery on her womb. The operation in August 1993 left her small bowel and womb seriously damaged, but the foetus was found to be viable, and she gave birth to a healthy daughter, Christen Rose, in March, 1994.

She needed further surgery to repair the damage and



Ms Hagstrom with her daughter Christen in 1994

remove an eight-inch section of her bowel and her appendix, which left a vertical scar from her navel to her groin. She spent the remaining seven months of her pregnancy in a state of constant concern for the child, which she was told might be born deformed because of drugs she was given. She also developed post-traumatic stress disorder, the court heard.

The Royal Surrey County and St Luke's Hospitals NHS Trust admits negligence, but disputes her claim of £800,000

in damages and loss of earnings. Mrs Hagstrom told the court she had been physically and psychologically traumatised by her experience at the hospital, and had several times collapsed with abdominal pains.

She sleeps badly and is perpetually exhausted, and the distress caused has left her incapable of concentration or work, the court was told. Mrs Hagstrom, who is British-born but became an American citizen after emigrating to America in 1980, left her job in

December, 1994, six months after returning, after collapsing at her desk.

"Everything was falling to pieces as far as my mind goes," she said. "Before, I was feeling really, really sharp. I lost interest in my job. I lost interest in doing anything."

The experience had caused her enormous concern for her second daughter, she told the court. "I was told that she could have a cleft palate, deformed hands, deformed feet, and deformed teeth, and that she might have neurological problems."

"I was even worried after she was born, because I was told by the paediatrician that even though she was normal, we don't know until about five years old whether there will be neurological damage."

"I felt shattered emotionally. I was really, really worried about how she was going to turn out. When I was told that she was still alive, I was horrified, because I had decided after the trauma that if I wanted more children, I would adopt."

The hearing continues.



Suzy Hagstrom at the High Court yesterday. She is claiming £800,000 damages

CHRIS HARRIS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy aged 11 expelled for having cannabis

A boy of 11 has been expelled from his primary school after cannabis was found in his coat pocket. Other pupils had claimed he had offered them "an illegal substance".

The boy, who has not been named, was suspended from Forest and Sandridge Primary School in Melksham, Wiltshire, more than two weeks ago. The police were informed and a meeting of governors, welfare officers and the youngster's mother was arranged.

Ronald Trew, vice-chairman of the governors, said in a statement: "We have been told by various parents that they would remove their own children from the school should the boy be readmitted."

Doctor charged

A doctor has appeared in court accused of the murder of Vicky Fletcher, 21, a nurse at the hospital where he works. Thomas Shanks, 47, was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates in Fossecroft, West Yorkshire.

Murder case man is freed by victim

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN accused of attempting to murder a member of a rival gang walked free from court yesterday while his alleged victim was jailed for refusing to give evidence against him.

Rickie Hunter, 19, from Thornton Heath in Surrey, was standing trial for the attempted murder of Leon Henry after a shoot-out near the Oval Cricket Ground in South London. But Mr Hunter was freed while Henry was jailed for eight months for contempt of court after refusing to testify.

The judge, Sir Lawrence Verney, QC, said he was forced to put Henry in custody after hearing how he had vowed to "sort him (Hunter) out myself".

The court was told how witnesses had seen Mr Hunter firing at Henry and two of his friends on a November evening in Kennington. Eighteen rounds were fired from a machine pistol, hitting cars and houses and narrowly missing passers-by.

Henry was shot in the cheek, neck and groin. Two fellow gang members were hit in the arm and hand.

The court was told that both men had previously been jailed for drugs offences.

Law's long arm

A woman officer caught a teenage girl by the wrist as she threw herself off a road bridge. PC Rosemarie Rabbit, 30, hung on to the girl, 18, and pulled her to safety with the aid of three officers in Cwmbran, Gwent.

Cause for alarm

More than 90 per cent of burglar alarm alerts from systems linked to the police are false. On average every system sent at least one false alarm last year. But the number of false alarms fell by 5 per cent to just under one million.

Congratulations

Nearly 14 million viewers watched the final stages of Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday — a 70 per cent audience share. Early figures indicated that the BBC1 show averaged nearly ten million viewers over three hours.

Slow on the draw

A National Lottery winner in the Luton area has claimed £2.1 million won in the January 7 draw. Camelot said it was the longest delay since the lottery began in 1994. Players can claim up to 180 days later.

They're sorry ...

Mornington Crescent, the Tube station shut for 5½ years for refurbishment, has closed again two weeks after services restarted because of a problem in lifts. The station's name features in Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*.

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Best in court fight to save Chelsea flat

Football legend could be evicted if he loses home match against bank, reports Damian Whitworth

GEORGE BEST, one of the most exciting attacking footballers the game has produced, found himself playing in defence yesterday in the latest crunch match of a long and varied career. The arena was the Central London County Court, the prize at stake — his home.

The former Manchester United star may face eviction if he loses a case brought against him by Clydesdale Bank, which is seeking £70,000 in mortgage arrears and other loans issued to buy the flat in Chelsea.

Central to the case is whether or not Mr Best actually owns the property. The court was told yesterday that the flat belongs to George Best Management Ltd. Mr Best, 51, claims he should rightfully control the company but his wish for the arrears to be paid are being thwarted. The bank says that his former agent, Bill McMurdo, the third party in court, is the majority shareholder.

Kick-off was slightly delayed when it was discovered

that Mr Best was not in court but seeking refreshment nearby. However, Mr Best escaped a yellow card from the presiding judge when his barrister, Jonathan Crystal, accepted the blame saying that he had understood that the case would start later.

When it got under way, with Mr Best's wife Alex, 26, sitting next to him in court, Thomas Jefferies, for Clydesdale Bank, said that in essence Mr Best was claiming ownership of the company and the property but he had previously said they did not belong to him. He said that George Best Management Ltd was set up by Mr Best and Mr McMurdo to exploit the former's potential as an entertainer and perhaps to manage other stars.

The two had been joint directors of the company, but more recently Mr McMurdo had acquired the majority of the shares. Mr Best was paid a wage of £80 a week and lived in the house rent-free. Mr McMurdo stayed there when he was in London.

Mr Jefferies read out part of

an affidavit signed by Mr Best in 1995 in which he said: "The relationship between the company and me is that of employer and employee."

However, Mr Crystal told Judge Roger Cooke that Mr Best's position had been constant. "He is prepared to discharge the money that is owed to the bank."

"It is the company that has refused to pay, if he controls the company, as he said he should do, it could be that this could be resolved very shortly."

"He is facing eviction from the flat he has lived in for the best part of 13 years because the company that bears his name refuses to make payments and refuses to allow him to make the payments. That is a matter of considerable concern. This whole issue of ownership is crucial."

Mr Crystal said he intended to show that Mr McMurdo and the bank were working together. "Mr McMurdo colluded with the bank to get Mr Best evicted," he said.

The case continues.



George Best arriving at court yesterday with his wife Alex. The case centres on whether he owns his home

Film shows windows of crash helicopter misted over

By Shirley English

FRANTIC efforts were made before take-off to demist the windows of a helicopter carrying four special needs children on a charity flight which ended in a fatal crash. Despite poor weather and reduced visibility caused by condensation, the aircraft still took off, video footage shown to a court revealed yesterday.

Garry Malley, 9, from Dundee, was killed moments after the home movie was taken on July 13 last year, when the aircraft crashed into farm fencing and came down in a field of bulls, a mile from Glamis Castle, Angus.

Neal Edmondson's charity Airborne had chartered the five-seater helicopter from KwikFit in Edinburgh for the sky rides as a treat for the children. Bob Hobson, 56, the pilot, from Pentcuiik, Midlothian, denies contravening two air regulations by allowing six people on the flight instead of the maximum of five and flying with misted windows.

The video footage, screened at Forfar Sheriff Court on the first day of Mr Hobson's trial, showed how the windows of the helicopter were almost completely misted over at take-off. It was raining heavily and the condensation was probably caused by the damp clothing of the children inside.

As the rotor blades began to turn, the excited squeals of the children on board could be heard. At the same time, the windscreen began to fog over. Droplets formed on the lens of the video camera as it captured the efforts to demist the windscreen.

The video was taken by Elizabeth Jones, a mother of one of the three children injured on the flight. The film ended with footage of the helicopter flying over the treetops at Glamis.

The dead boy's mother, Sandra Malley, from Dundee, left the courtroom as the video started. Earlier she had sat on the public benches with Garry's father, Thomas Simpson, as the court was shown photographs of the wreckage of the G-Flyer helicopter in which her son died and three other children were injured.

The trial continues.

'Gentleman' thief admits he was in picture on Picasso

By Tim Jones



Scott changed plea as jury was due to retire

A RETIRED high-society cat burglar was warned yesterday that he faces a return to jail after admitting his part in the theft of a £650,000 Picasso.

Peter Scott, 67, who has spent 12 years behind bars, said that he had quit crime ten years ago. But yesterday he changed his plea to admit conspiracy to handle the picture, just as a jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court, East London, was to retire to consider his original not-guilty plea.

As he left the court to await sentence, Scott said: "I was intellectually and morally convinced that after the prosecution's very skillful cross-examination, I could not continue to sustain this not-guilty plea

without jeopardising ten years of honesty, decency and hard work. I am a victim of circumstances."

However, as his five-day trial unfolded, it was plain that far from being innocent, Scott had hoped all along to benefit by £75,000 from the sale of the painting which had been stolen by an armed raider from the Lefevre Gallery in Mayfair.

Scott, the court was told, met the robber within hours of the raid in March last year, and passed the work to his accomplice, Ronald Spring, 70, a former legal executive. Spring, who had admitted handling the painting, *Tête de Femme*, agreed to give evidence against his one-time accomplice. He also faces a prison sentence.

Whatever friendship had existed between the two men crumbled as

the trial ran its course. Scott, stung by the fact his colleague in crime had broken the burglar's code of honour, turned on his former friend in the dock. He said: "He is a wretched man. He handled my divorce and he handled it badly. He is a weak man who was programmed by very clever police officers. I was the top patsy. I am a professional, elderly patsy."

Scott, wearing a white silk scarf and tennis shoes, said he earned a living as a society tennis coach. He told the jury that the painting had been stolen by a young man who regarded him as a surrogate father, and that his downfall had been caused by loyalty to the robber.

"I knew this man, I got close to him, cared for him and in the end, boom," said Scott, who lives in an Islington council flat. The robber, he

said, was a heroin user who believed in mysticism, Buddhism and was obsessed by the works of the German philosopher Nietzsche. "He was writing a manuscript, trying to emulate his father. His is of a very philosophical bent and is actually quite a gentle boy."

After his arrest, Scott refused to cooperate fully with police and by way of justification quoted lines from *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley: "In the fell clutch of circumstance / I have not winced nor cried aloud / Under the bludgeonings of chance / My head is bloody, but unbowed."

Scott was arrested outside the Sherlock Holmes hotel in Central London, where he used to enjoy sandwiches and cream cakes for tea. He had claimed that he was an

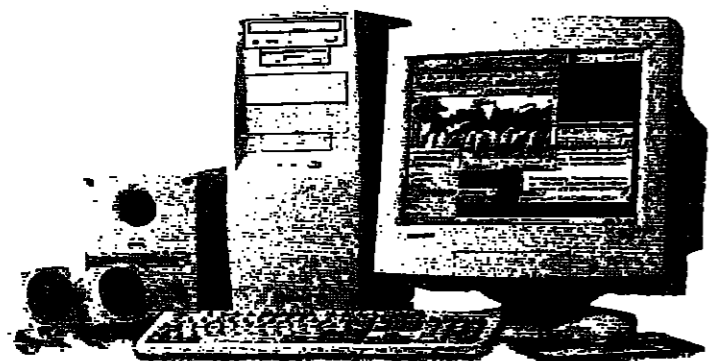
innocent go-between in a private deal arranged by Spring, 70, and the robber.

During 40 years in crime, Scott, who was an accomplished cat burglar, claims to have stolen jewels and property worth more than £40 million, including items belonging to Elizabeth Taylor. Prophetically, his book, *Gentleman Thief*, has on its cover a picture of him walking away with French Impressionist painting under his arm.

Last year, Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of the Princess of Wales, complained that Scott, who has been divorced four times, was stalking her by letter. He was quoted as saying: "We are two people who have trod the boards of passion and had to pay the price. I would marry her if I could."

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Special hospital chief calls for end to sniping

THE head of Ashworth Hospital called yesterday for an end to the turmoil surrounding the Merseyside complex that houses some of Britain's most dangerous psychopaths.

Hilary Hodge, the chief executive, dismissed the latest allegations that 16 nurses have been working illegally at the high security hospital as only a technical breach. The nurses, who looked after dangerous patients and administered drugs, had failed to register with their statutory body, the United Kingdom Central Council, leaving the hospital vulnerable to legal action.

Dr Hodge made her comments to *The Times* as she attended the long-running Fallon committee of inquiry into allegations of drugs and alcohol misuse, paedophile activity and the availability of pornography on the Personality Disorder Unit.

Last week William Baird, 39, who worked at Ashworth as a nurse for three years after he was convicted of possessing indecent photographs of child-

Ashworth's new top executive tells Russell Jenkins that latest rule violation was only a technicality

ren, was struck off the medical register. Dr Hodge was brought in last October, as the inquiry got under way, to install tougher management at the hospital at Maghull, north Liverpool, whose patients include the Moors murderer Ian Brady.

She has provoked rebellion among senior psychiatrists, who have accused her of interfering with clinical affairs and making "serious errors". Nurses talk of low morale among staff.

Dr Hodge said: "I think everybody should focus their attention and energies back on delivering good patient care. All the patients and staff need a lot of support to make sure we can do that. If I had thought it was going to be easy, I wouldn't have taken the job."

The latest allegation that 16

nurses had failed to register comes after Dr Hodge's managers reviewed procedures. They found that there were no proper procedures for checking whether nurses were qualified.

The investigation also discovered that many patients at Ashworth — but not those sent to the hospital by the courts — were detained illegally because ward managers had not been appointed in accordance with procedures laid down by the Mental Health Act.

As a result of the internal inquiry, a manager was demoted. The findings were discussed at Ashworth Hospital Authority in March.

Hugh Lamont, a spokesman for Ashworth, said: "Nurses have to register with their official body every year. It is a technicality but a very

serious one. If something goes wrong, the hospital is at risk.

"The nurses had allowed their registrations to lapse, but they are just 16 out of 900 nurses, and the situation was put right immediately after they were discovered at the beginning of the year."

Clearly exasperated by the timing of this leak, Dr Hodge dismissed the breach in the regulations as "a technicality". She said: "The problem was that the system was not in place to check that each of the nurses had kept their registration up. They have a personal responsibility but the hospital should make sure and check that it does happen."

The confrontation with 15 senior psychiatrists may prove more difficult to dismiss. They are believed to have threatened to resign if Dr Hodge is not removed from her post.

Dr Hodge, who is to give evidence to the Fallon inquiry next week, said yesterday that Dame Fiona Caldicott, a former President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, had been called in as an independent arbiter.



Dress sense: the deputy mayor, Pam Burchill, left, led the way against the designer wear of Armand Watts



Mayor resigns to be freed from fashion chains

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A YOUNG Labour mayor has quit after his designer clothes were banned by his own party. Armand Watts, 29, a hairdresser, had sponsored the traditional suit and tie and dressed casually for meetings during his year in office.

As mayor of the border town of Chepstow, South Wales, his smart but laidback style met with disapproval despite the fact that his designer T-shirts by Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Lacoste cost more than some of his colleagues' suits. The

Blairite quit a week before the end of his office after his Labour colleagues voted 14-0 to impose a dress code for council meetings.

Behind the sartorial coup was Mr Watts's deputy, Pam Burchill, 62, who takes over later this week. A retired nurse, and married to a retired army warrant officer, she admitted yesterday that she used to "nut" when Mr Watts arrived for meetings in his hairdressing clothes.

"Armand has done it his way during his year of office, now we will do it my way," she said. "He's a lovely lad. I admit I'm old fashioned but some of the clothes Armand wears are just not right. If we are elected, we have a duty to maintain high standards and that includes a dress code."

Mr Watts swore not to set foot in the council chamber until the policy changed. He said: "If I was attending an official civic function I would always wear an Armani or Hugo Boss suit, but otherwise I prefer something smart but casual like Calvin Klein jeans and a polo shirt. I don't see the point in wearing a suit, shirt and tie to sit around in council meetings."

Mrs Burchill confessed to owning a pair of jeans herself "but I only wear them for gardening".



Traditional look: Watts in jacket, tie and chain

Student assaulted Cambridge porter

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A DRUNKEN student elbowed a Cambridge college porter in the face while celebrating victory over Oxford in the varsity rugby match, a court was told yesterday.

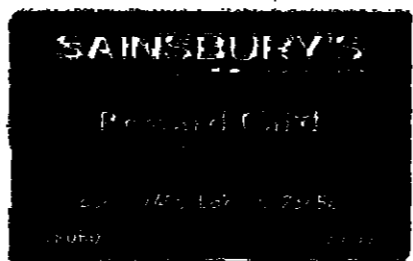
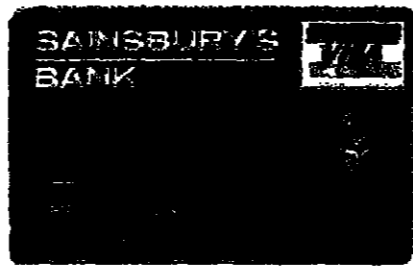
Alan Quartermaine, 47 and 5ft 6in, was left with a broken nose, black eyes and damaged teeth after intervening in a brawl involving 17 stone, 6ft 7in Andrew Craig during a party at Homerton College last year. Craig, 25, a New Zealand lock forward, had been toasting his part in the victory. Cambridge Crown Court was told that while Craig, a postgraduate, admitted the assault he could not

remember the details because of the amount he had drunk.

Mark Aston, for the prosecution, said that he had become involved in a brawl with two people while acting as doorman. Mr Quartermaine tried to calm the situation. "The defendant seemed to let go of the female and deliberately brought his elbow into the face of Mr Quartermaine," he said. "It was enough to knock Mr Quartermaine to the ground."

Gareth Hawkesworth, for the defence, said that Craig had not intended to hurt the porter. Judge John Sheerin adjourned sentencing.

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Bomb victim's daughter joins drive for peace

Doctor plans first Ulster visit, writes Stephen Farrell

THE daughter of one of the Balcombe Street gang's victims is to campaign in Northern Ireland for a "yes" vote in the referendum.

Diana Hamilton-Fairley, whose father Gordon, a cancer specialist, was killed by an IRA car bomb in Cetus in 1975, will appear at a press conference in Belfast on Thursday to back the Good Friday peace agreement. Ms Hamilton-Fairley, 41, an obstetrician and gynaecologist and the mother of two children, will be making her first visit to the Province.

She was 19 and had been a medical student for three weeks when Joseph O'Connell, Harry Duggan, Eddie Butler and Hugh Doherty killed her father in Kensington, West London, with a bomb intended for his neighbour, the late Tory MP Sir Hugh Fraser.

"Nothing that happens can bring Daddy back or erase the

pain and suffering of my family, but whatever it takes to achieve a peaceful resolution is worth doing," she said last night.

"After his death, we received an enormous number of letters from people in Northern and southern Ireland saying they did not want to be associated with the violence, and I have never felt angry with the people of Northern Ireland or with any particular section of that community.

"I was angry, particularly with the people who did it, and I was angry with the inflammatory language used, but it gradually waned and within two or three years I was thinking more positively about what I could do."

Although she is close to her family, discusses the issues with them and believes they broadly support her initiative, she says it is a personal one. She qualified as a doctor in

1981 and became a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1988. She specialises in reproductive medicine and the care of women with fertility problems at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust in London.

As soon as the Good Friday agreement was announced, she realised it would mean the eventual release of the gang, who were earlier told they would remain in jail for life. Although she supported the decision to let the four attend Sinn Fein's weekend conference, to encourage delegates to vote for peace, she balked at their rapturous welcome.

Nevertheless she agreed to support the "yes" campaign after working alongside Northern Irish doctors from both sides of the sectarian divide for years, and discussing it with one who visited London in April.

"We have all taken different routes and come to different conclusions. For me, the most important thing is that there is a resounding 'yes' vote, and whatever it takes to achieve a peaceful means of resolving the differences in Northern Ireland has to be undertaken.

"If there is anything that can be done to bring about an end to the violence of the past 300 years, and particularly the last 30 years, then that will help to overcome the pain of my father's death."

Professor Hamilton-Fairley, a world authority on leukaemia, died while walking his dogs outside his home. He bent down to examine a device under the MP's Jaguar XJ6 and had just turned away when it blew up.

Michael Gove, page 20



No: Jim Dixon considers that the peace agreement is "absurd"



Yes: Alan McBride believes that there is "too much at stake here"

United in grief, torn apart by hatred

By Martin Fletcher

ALAN McBRIDE and Jim Dixon have much in common. They are both Protestants living in Northern Ireland, practising Christians and intelligent men who have suffered terribly at the hands of the IRA. But in their attitudes to the new peace accord they are diametrically opposed.

Mr McBride sees the agreement as a priceless chance of bringing peace and stability to his tortured Province.

Mr Dixon considers it "insane", the ultimate appeasement of terrorism.

Mr Dixon, 60, suffered appalling injuries when the IRA bombed Enniskillen's Remembrance Day service in 1987. He had gone to watch his daughter lay a wreath, and was crushed by tons of masonry. His head, ribs, pelvis and legs were smashed and he suffered brain and spinal damage. He lives in constant pain and is badly disfigured. Because his eyelids do not work, he tapes his

head to sleep. "My life is a living hell. I would be happy to die," he says. "This is the legacy of the men that are going to run our country... How obnoxious and absurd can we get?"

Mr McBride, 35, lost his wife, Sharon, and his father-in-law when the IRA blew up a Shankill Road fish shop in 1993, killing ten people. Mr McBride had to raise his two-year-old daughter, Zoe, by himself. In his initial rage, he "plagued" Sinn Fein. He pursued Gerry Adams round

America, held up placards when the Sinn Fein president arrived at airports, and challenged him when he appeared on call-in shows. Gradually he began to channel his fury by helping other victims and building cross-community relations, and is now training as a youth worker.

"There's too much at stake here," he says. "We all have not to think so much of ourselves and our own hurts and grievances, but of the wider good of society."

PROVINCE STARTS COUNTDOWN

With ten days left until the vote on the peace agreement, Unionists remain split and could yet reject the deal (Martin Fletcher writes). While Ulster as a whole will unquestionably back the agreement, the new political structures may prove unworkable if a majority of Unionists vote "no".

Officials hope that last week's joint visit by Tony Blair and John Major will have boosted Unionist support. However, Sinn Fein's massive endorsement on Sunday, and the release of prominent IRA prisoners for its conference, did nothing to reassure wavering Unionists.

On a Belfast radio chat show yesterday, Mr Blair said: "If people don't vote 'yes' now, we will have lost an opportunity that will not come again in this generation." Today Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, unveils an economic assistance package for Northern Ireland worth more than £100 million. On Thursday, Mr Blair makes another visit. During the world economic summit in Birmingham this weekend, the Prime Minister, President Clinton and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, are expected to issue a joint appeal for a "yes" vote.

Seven IRA terrorists left in British prisons

SEVEN convicted IRA terrorists remain in jails in England and Wales after the steady transfer of 44 others during the past six years.

A trickle of republican terrorists sent to Northern Ireland turned to a flood after the IRA declared a ceasefire in 1994 (which lasted 17 months), and has grown since Labour came to power and a new ceasefire was declared. The most important transfers have appeared to be timed to demonstrate to the republicans the Government's "good intent". Since 1992, 44 republican prisoners have been transferred to jails in the Province or in the Irish Republic, on the basis that they would serve the same sentence as they would had they remained in an English jail. The Good Friday agreement changes this. Any terrorist belonging to an organisation which maintains its ceasefire will be released on licence by 2000. Among those expected to be freed are the Balcombe Street gang and the Brighton bomber.

The seven convicted terrorists still in jail in England are:

Nicholas Mulven, 48, an IRA quartermaster sentenced at the Old Bailey in 1990 to 30 years in jail after being convicted of conspiracy to cause explosions. Mulven, from North London, has not applied for a transfer. Held in Frankland jail, co Durham.
Jan Taylor, 54, a former army corporal from east

Richard Ford reports on the convicts who could be released on licence by 2000

London, was sentenced in 1994 to 30 years in jail after being convicted of causing explosions and conspiracy to cause explosions in London. Application for transfer to a jail in Irish Republic being processed in Dublin. Held in Full Sutton jail, near York.

John Kinsella, 53, born in Dublin but lived in Nottingham for many years. Given 20-year sentence in 1994 for possessing an explosive substance linked to bomb attack on Warrington gasworks in 1993. Application for transfer to jail in Irish Republic agreed but suspended pending appeal hearing in London. Held in Frankland jail, co Durham.

Brian McHugh, 31, from Co Fermanagh. Sentenced at the Old Bailey in 1997 to 25 years for conspiracy to cause explosions. Was commander of an IRA team planning a bombing campaign which police believe would have involved an attack on a

London shopping centre. Application to be transferred to Northern Ireland. Held in Whitemoor jail in Cambridgeshire.

Patrick Kelly, 31, born in Birmingham but went to Irish Republic with family. Jailed for 20 years at the Old Bailey in 1997 for his part in the plot to cause explosions, in the case in which McHugh was convicted. Application for transfer to jail in Irish Republic being processed in Dublin. Held in Full Sutton jail.

James Murphy, 26, born in London but lived with parents in the Irish Republic. Jailed in 1997 for 17 years for conspiracy to cause explosions, at same time as McHugh and Kelly. Application for transfer to jail in the Irish Republic being processed in Dublin. Held in Full Sutton jail.

Michael Gallagher, 55, born in Glasgow to parents from Irish Republic, sentenced at Woolwich Crown Court in 1998 for his part in a mortar bomb attack on Heathrow Airport in 1994. Found guilty of conspiracy to cause explosions. No transfer request received yet. Held in Long Lartin prison.

Two Scots Guardsmen, Mark Wright and James Fisher, are in Maghaberry jail in Northern Ireland having been jailed for life in 1992 for shooting a man when he ran away from their foot patrol in Belfast. Their case is to be reviewed by a board in the autumn.

Scout groups vote to end seven decades of partition

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

THE two scouting movements in the Irish Republic — one traditionally Catholic and the other Protestant — are to merge in support of the peace process.

Scouting Ireland and the Scout Association of Ireland voted overwhelmingly in favour of merger talks that should lead to a single group by 2000.

The Boy Scouts movement, started by Lord Baden-Powell in 1908, covered Ireland because it was then under British control. Catholics became involved, however, as they considered the organisation staunchly Protestant and Unionist. In

1927, Tom and Ernest Farrell, brothers who were Roman Catholic priests, set up Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland. The boys dressed in blue rather than Baden-Powell's army green and played hurling and Gaelic football rather than soccer and cricket.

"We may have kept our distance and got on with running our own groups but there is no recollection or historical account of any major fallout," Kieran Gildea, chief commissioner of Scouting Ireland, said.

The groups' first big joint project was in 1979 when thousands of Protestant and

Catholic scouts were ushers and guides during the visit of Pope John Paul II.

The traditionally Catholic group, which last year changed its name to Scouting Ireland, has 35,000 members. The Scouting Association of Ireland has 10,000. Both are now multi-denominational.

John Murphy, chairman of the merger committee, said: "Discussions will be difficult because there is the inevitable fear of the new. People are attached to various historical items and we will have to try to find compromise so that everybody gets a little bit of everything."



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Trains running later since privatisation

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday criticised the performance of many train operators after figures showed that fewer trains ran on time in the first year of full privatisation.

Those firms that performed worst were fined up to £1.35 million. In contrast, companies that improved their punctuality received up to £9 million.

Deterioration across most of the network also provoked the rail franchising director into making his toughest demands for improvement by the 25 operators.

In the year to March punctuality worsened on more than two thirds of routes, statistics from the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf) showed. The worst deteriorations were shown by Thames Trains and Great Western, whose directors made millions from selling their stakes. Both firms blamed problems caused by maintenance work carried out by Railtrack for the deterioration in time-keeping.

National Express, the coach company that has become Britain's largest train operator, was rewarded with £9.05 million for substantially improving three of its five rail franchises: ScotRail, Central Trains and Silverlink.

The ScotRail payment of £7.58 million will double National Express's profit this year from its ownership of the 1,040-mile franchise — which City analysts had expected to generate £2.9 million before tax for the year to March 31.

The award was the most logical in an array of erratic payments by Opraf that heavily penalised mediocre performers and rewarded some of the sharpest deteriorations. Opraf fined companies a total

Fraser Nelson and Arthur Leathley on erratic rewards and fines for performance

of £3.74 million over the year — a figure dwarfed by the £16.4 million of extra payments and the £1.55 billion of subsidy.

Connex South Eastern was the most heavily fined, paying £1.35 million. Its service deteriorated by 14 per cent, against the network's average decline of 4.3 per cent. Stagecoach was fined £1.01 million for further punctuality deteriorations on its South West Trains franchise — albeit a relatively modest 5.5 per cent drop. It was also fined £17,000 for failings on its eight-mile Island Line service — which still remains the most punctual in the UK.

Virgin Rail was exempt from the performance scheme because its trains are on very long-distance routes. Its West Coast service in Scotland was the worst performer on punctuality, although it began from the lowest base under British Rail. However, Virgin's West Coast services in the Midlands and North West showed continued improvements in time-keeping. Virgin took over the worst franchises from British Rail and claim that recent performance shows it to be among the most improved.

Mr Prescott, who next month will publish details of

his plans to tighten regulation of the railway industry, said: "Passengers deserve much better, bearing in mind the £1.8 billion from taxpayers going into the privatised railway. Poor performers must take immediate steps to improve."

However, senior rail managers have issued a warning that services may worsen further in some areas during the coming years, as congestion increases and large-scale track repair works are carried out.

On reliability, which records the number of trains cancelled, 23 routes improved, 22 were worse and nine stayed the same. John O'Brien, the rail franchising director, singled out for criticism Great Western and Thames, both of which have been forced to improve passenger services as a condition of being taken over.

Keith Bill, national secretary of the pressure group Save Our Railways, said: "In many parts of the country we are reaching a crisis and if Tony Blair and John Prescott do not step in with some tough radical measures which will turn this right around, it won't be long before passengers vent their fury on new Labour and not the last administration."



Lone drivers avoiding Britain's first high-occupancy vehicle lane in yesterday morning's rush-hour into Leeds

Car-share lane traps lone drivers

By PAUL WILKINSON

MORE than 40 drivers were caught out yesterday by a new traffic system aimed at cutting congestion on a commuter route. The motorists were all picked up driving alone in Britain's first priority lane for drivers who share their vehicles with passengers.

All received cautions from the extra police monitoring the lane, which runs for almost a mile on the A647 dual carriageway into Leeds from Bradford.

A police spokeswoman said: "From now on we shall be cracking down on single-occupancy vehicles found in the lane." Lone motorists face a £20 fixed penalty or, if their case goes to court, a fine of up to £200. Known as a high-

occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane, the stretch of road through Stanningley is restricted during the morning and evening rush hours. Only buses and vehicles carrying two or more people are permitted to use it.

But some motorists were unimpressed with the scheme. One mother driving in the multi-occupancy lane with her 18-month-old baby on board was told to move into the single-person lane. Diane Howard, from Oakwood, Leeds, said: "I told them I wasn't the only person in the car but it didn't make any difference."

One Golf GTI driver from Pudsey said: "It's an absolute farce. There are long tailbacks and drivers are getting more and more impatient. I'll be using a different route tomorrow. I'm sure it will

be a lot quicker and cheaper." It is the first urban HOV lane in Europe, although they are common in America, and there is a similar scheme on a major trunk road outside Madrid in Spain. A spokesman for Leeds council, which introduced the scheme, said: "A survey last year showed that one third of all vehicles carried two thirds of all commuters during peak periods. Giving priority to these vehicles will therefore speed journeys. If just a small number of single motorists can be persuaded to share, then all motorists should benefit."

Police patrols have yet to report the sort of stunts adopted by lone drivers in America, where life-size inflatable dolls have been put in passenger seats to trick surveillance cameras.

Driver who went on the rails must have eye test

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

AN ELDERLY motorist was yesterday ordered by a court to have his eyes tested after he drove almost 100 yards down a railway line that he mistook for a side-road.

George Sneddon, 76, who wears a hearing aid and suffers from angina, and his wife May, 73, were heading towards an express train.

A passer-by used an emergency telephone to raise the alarm and, after a series of calls, signal staff managed to halt trains in the area. The line was closed for an hour and 19 trains were delayed, at a cost of £8,600 to Railtrack.

Yesterday Stirling Sheriff Court was told that Sneddon, who had an unblemished 50-year driving record, had mistakenly turned onto the line on a rainy night in November, after being dazzled by the lights of an oncoming car. Sneddon also said that he had swerved left to avoid a car on the wrong side of the road.

A doctor's report said that the pensioner was not suffering from any neurological impairment, but should see an eye specialist. Sheriff Robert Younger deferred sentencing until June 3 to allow an eye examination to be carried out.

Sneddon, a retired bricklayer, from Raploch, Stirling, pleaded guilty to careless driving and driving without an MOT certificate.

THE TIMES
Moth in ho
Kathryn Knight

What's truly breathtaking about reaching the top of your frequent flyer programme is that five other airlines recognize the effort.

RAIL FIRMS' TRACK RECORD		
Operator	Routes	Average to 31/3/98
Anglia	Intra City	92.89
	Norwich-Sheringham	94.7 83.9
	Norwich-Lowestoft	96.9 98.2
	Norwich-Great Yarmouth	98.5 96.5
	Ipswich-Felixstowe	99.7 94.9
	Ipswich-Lowestoft	91.8 90.8
Central	Ipswich-Cambridge	94.2 89.7
	Cardiff	93.4 91.1
	Mid Wales & Marches	93.2 93.2
	Inter Urban	91.8 92.2
Chiltern	East Midlands	94.6 95.6
	London to Birmingham	94.2 91.5
	South London	92.7 90.6
	Sussex Coast	98.6 96.6
Connex SE	Kent Link	96.3 94.8
	Kent Coast	98.9 96.7
Cross Country	Scotland-SW England	98.7 95.7
	Scotland-SW England	91.8 91.1
Great Eastern	Essex/Suffolk	92.2 98.6
	Edinburgh-London	99.8 97.9
Eastern	South Wales-London	90.4 84.7
	Isle of Wight	96.5 95.9
LTS	London-Thorby Southend	93.9 93.6
	Northern Line	94.2 94.9
Midland	Wired Line	92.2 94.1
	Leeds-London	91.8 90.2
North Western	Long distance	95.4
	Inter-Urban	93.7
Regional	N Wales Inter Urban	94.8 94.3
	Lincolnshire/Cumbria	93.0
ScotRail	Manchester City	95.2
	North Wales rural	98.8 88.6
Transpennine	Manchester South	94.7
	Manchester North	94.9
West of England	Transpennine Exports	91.4 89.7
	West and N Yorks long	92.2
West of England	South Yorks/Humberdale long	99
	Northern long	94.6 93.3
West of England	West and N Yorks short	94.4
	South Yorks/Humberdale short	93.8
West of England	Northern short	92.8 92.1
	Express	94.8 93.3
West of England	South West	96.7 95.9
	Highland	95.8 94.4
West of England	East	93.5 93.8
	Central	93.3 94.7
West of England	SPT	95.4
	Overnight	98.2
West of England	Northeastern Lines	94.7 91.9
	Watford locals	92 94.1
West of England	North London lines	98.7 98.2
	Main line	99.4 98.2
West of England	Suburban	91.7 90.8
	Thames	93.7 87.9
West of England	Thameslink	98.7 98.6
	West & West	92.8 90.5
West of England	South Cotswolds	93.3 94
	West and Central Wales	94.5 94.8
West of England	Acet	90.3 87.8
	Devon	95 94.8
West of England	Comwall	97.7 95.2
	West Anglia	94.4 94.2
West of England	Great Northern	99.3 98.8
	West Midlands	96 89.9
West of England	North West	98.8 82
	Scottish	79.1 69.5

Legal threat to water firm over sewage

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

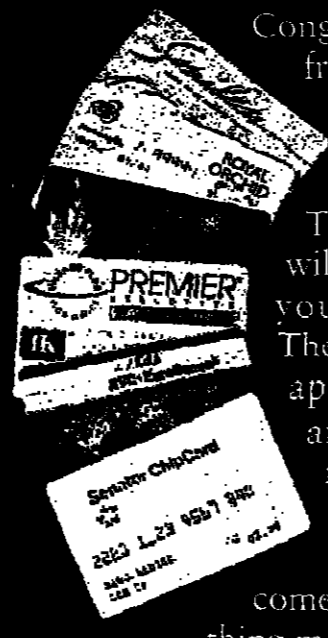
A WATER company pumping raw sewage into the Fal estuary in Cornwall faces a legal challenge after a health alert to sailors and swimmers.

Elizabeth White, Cornwall public health officer, said that the bacterial count near South West Water's new £10 million outfall is so high it poses a threat to human health. She told the Falmouth Port Health Authority: "Sailors would be advised to avoid the area as it would be unwise to bathe or sail there."

The Black Rock outfall began discharging raw sewage into the middle of the estuary in March. In theory, it should be swept out to sea, but

twice during trials green marker dye was washed back over local oyster beds. Yesterday the port health authority said that it intends to take legal advice on serving an abatement notice against South West Water.

The outfall replaced a number of small pipes discharging raw sewage into the sea. South West Water says the scheme is in accordance with Environment Agency rules, and a spokesman added: "The situation that existed before was far worse. We are disappointed at this kind of feeling about the improvements, but we understand we live in a democratic society."



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Mother fights to stay in home from Dome

Kathryn Knight reports on eviction battle at Millennium Park site

A SINGLE mother yesterday won the right to appeal against eviction from her home beside the Millennium Dome site.

Carolyn Rushton, 33, who is pregnant with her second child, is believed to be the only remaining tenant in a Victorian terrace of gas workers' houses. The company building the Dome wants them for construction and production staff, and another firm that will develop the surrounding area says that when the Dome is finished, the cottages will be in the middle of the Millennium Park.



The terrace built to house 19th-century gas workers

While there are no plans to demolish or develop the cottages, which date from 1830, Ms Rushton has been ordered to leave her two-bedroom home by her landlord, a housing trust that is transferring the lease to the New Millennium Experience.

Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Auld granted her leave to appeal against the eviction order taken out by the trust. Ms Rushton has lived in the cottage in east Greenwich for more than 13 years after moving in as a student. She has a 22-month-old daughter Bertha and is expecting to give birth in July.

The Court of Appeal was told that the London and Quadrant Housing Trust had

been leasing the properties from English Partnerships, but was transferring the lease to the New Millennium Experience, which is building the Dome and developing the surrounding 300 acres for housing and businesses.

Jan Luba, Ms Rushton's counsel, said that she had been told she must leave in 1996 and assured that she would be suitably rehoused. But while her neighbours in the six other cottages had left, Ms Rushton had not been offered alternative arrangements.

Mr Luba said the trust had had no right to enforce her eviction because she was an

assured tenant who had been paying £41 rent a week.

After the hearing, Ms Rushton said: "I have shown today that they cannot use eviction notices as intimidation measures. I said I would move when they asked, but they have offered me nothing else and I am now six months pregnant. At the end of the day, it is my home and I am going to fight for it."

Gerard O'Toole, her solicitor, said after the hearing: "As an assured tenant, anyone who takes over the lease must continue offering her similar rights."

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience said

that the company was building the Dome and English Partnerships was responsible for housing, the business area and park.

"English Partnerships has said that the cottages are in the middle of the proposed Millennium Park and that they will be bringing forward plans to ensure that the cottages are used appropriately in the public open space," he said.

"The New Millennium Experience will wish to use the cottages to house essential construction and production staff for a 24-hour operation. However, it should be recognised that there are large-scale construction works taking place around the cottages which make them unsuitable for other forms of accommodation until that work is completed."

A spokesman for the housing trust said that it had offered Ms Rushton other homes and the local council had agreed to rehouse her, but she had declined to contact the council and had refused the trust's offers. "While London and Quadrant is sympathetic to Ms Rushton's desire to remain in her current home, the organisation is legally bound by the terms of its lease to English Partnerships and has no option but to return it to them," he said.



Carolyn Rushton outside the Court of Appeal after it ruled in her favour yesterday

Boarding school is saved by parents

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

PARENTS have raised more than £700,000 to save a Roman Catholic boarding school only a fortnight after its closure was announced.

The trustees of the 373-year-old Douai School, at Upper Woolhampton, near Reading, decided at Easter that falling pupil numbers and rising debts made closure inevitable. The 179 pupils were told that the current term would be their last at the school.

Douai, which was founded in Paris and moved to Berkshire at the start of the century, would have been the first member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference to close. The Benedictine monastery sharing the 200-acre site could not afford losses projected at £1.5 million over the next two years.

However, an action group established by old boys and parents won a stay of execution from the monks while a business plan was prepared and new funding sought. The group announced yesterday that it had reached agreement on the establishment of a new trust, which would take over the running of the school.

A meeting of parents was told there would be "substantial" investment for a new art and drama centre and a sports hall, and for modernising boarding accommodation.

Yorkshiremen sit down with grace

By PAUL WILKINSON

ROTARY Club lunches were always the opportunity for a good scoff as well as a fair amount of networking. Now Yorkshire businessmen have acknowledged that a little gratitude tempered with amusement is necessary before they get down to eating and dealing.

Rotarians from more than 70 clubs across the region have compiled a 32-page book of graces from the humble to the humorous to start them on their way. *The Book of Graces*, its £2 price to go to charity, includes graces in Latin, Yorkshire dialect and standard English. Its creator is Roy Yates, 53, a Methodist minister and member of the Headingley Rotary Club in Leeds, who grew tired of nervous colleagues asking him for a funny grace they could use.

Rotarians from Scarborough offered: "Before we raise our knives and forks and listen to the popping corks, help us Lord to think and pray

for those who will not eat today."

Castleford in West Yorkshire came up with: "Rotarian Jack could eat no fat, he enjoyed meat red and lean. So when his meat was just like that he'd say: 'How good God has been!'"

Bingley, near Leeds, was more down to earth: "God bless this bunch who munch this lunch. I have a hunch that when it comes to the crunch they will have punch to serve and help those in need."

The Rotary Breakfast Club says: "For ham and eggs and buttered toast: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost", while diners in Driffield, East Yorkshire say: "Thank you Lord, for breakfast, lunch and now this dinner. Without your kindness we would all be a lot thinner."

But most popular was the traditional and certainly honest Yorkshire grace: "Thank the Lord for what we've gotten. If there'd been any more it wud a been etion."

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Law will restrict press price cuts, says Beckett

Polly Newton and James Landale on a defence of the Competition Bill

NEWSPAPERS that abuse their market dominance by undercutting their rivals' prices will be punished under the Government's Competition Bill, Margaret Beckett said yesterday.

Mrs Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, told the Commons that there was no need for an amendment passed by the Lords that would specifically outlaw "predatory pricing" by newspapers.

During the second reading debate in the Commons, she said there had been claims that without the amendment the Bill favoured newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*.

Critics accuse Mr Murdoch of cutting the price of *The Times* to drive other newspapers out of business, although three investigations by the Office of Fair Trading have rejected this view.

Mrs Beckett told MPs that the Bill "strengthens competi-

tion law across the board, not only for newspapers, and it does not in any way shape or form discriminate in favour of Mr Murdoch or indeed of any other newspaper proprietor or group".

She said that Clause 60 of the Bill would require Britain to follow judgments made by the Office of Fair Trading ruling by the European Court of Justice — in the case of Tetra Pak — that any company consistently cutting its prices below its average variable costs would be in breach of the law.

She promised tough penalties for companies that flout the new law, with offenders facing fines of up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover.

The Director General of Fair Trading would be able to demand information from companies and make surprise visits to the offices of those suspected of breaking the law.

In addition, the Director General would have the power immediately to stop "seriously

anti-competitive behaviour" while a full investigation was carried out.

Mrs Beckett said that the Lords amendment was fundamentally flawed because it would apply to legitimate as well as illegitimate activities by newspapers in their drive to attract more readers.

Chris Mullin (Lab, Sunderland South) said: "For many of us, the acid test of this Bill will be whether it addresses the sort of abuse that has been taking place in the national newspaper market, which the present Office of Fair Trading seems powerless to deal with."

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall North) said *The Times's* pricing policy threatened the existence of *The Independent*. "I don't think it is desirable if it goes out of business purely and simply as the result of the undercutting carried out by *The Times*. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction not only on these benches but across the country about what is happening."

John Redwood, Shadow

President of the Board of Trade, said the Bill was "a muddle, a ragbag, a mint with no hole in the middle, a Bill in search of a policy".

He said the Tories would join the Government in voting against the Lords' amendment. "Our view is that the Bill does not need the amendment passed in the Lords in order to make predatory pricing in the newspaper industry an offence."

Clive Soley (Lab, Ealing Acton and Shephard Bush) said neither the Bill nor the Lords amendment would combat predatory pricing. Instead, he called for a separate Communications Bill to cover all media issues, ensuring press diversity and freedom while combating predatory pricing.

Alan Clark (C, Chelsea and Kensington) said: "If predatory pricing means price discounting, then I am in favour of it and so is any consumer." He added that *The Independent* was doing so badly because of the "irredeemable boredom to which it reduces its readers".



Alan Simpson and fellow English MPs after beating Scottish MPs 2-1 at Upton Park yesterday in the inaugural match for the Football Trust Challenge Cup

Unions in final bid to sway Blair

By Jill Sherman

TRADE union leaders will make a final attempt today to persuade the Prime Minister to accept their position on union recognition.

The TUC executive will meet Tony Blair at Downing Street for what is expected to be their last meeting before the publication of the White Paper on workers' rights, *Fairness at Work*.

Ministerial sources indicated yesterday that the paper could go before the Cabinet on Thursday and be published the same day, although this will depend on today's meeting.

It is now widely expected that Mr Blair will impose his own position after failing to broker an agreement between the unions and the employers. The White Paper is likely to specify that trade union recognition will be granted only if 40 per cent of the workforce vote in favour of it. The CBI was in favour of a 50 per cent threshold but will accept 40 per cent, while the unions are holding out for 30 per cent.

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RAF to lose 36 combat aircraft in defence cuts

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE RAF is to lose 36 frontline combat aircraft under the Government's Strategic Defence Review.

Although the Cabinet's overseas policy and defence committee has yet to study the Ministry of Defence's assessment, completed a few weeks ago, few changes to the recommendations are expected.

The Royal Navy appears to have come out best, with a proper strategic assessment of its future role, while the Army has been restructured, with the promise of 3,500 more soldiers for logistic units. The RAF has come out worst. The cuts will include air defence and defence air support aircraft, principally Tornado F3s, which flew missions in the 1991 Gulf War.

One senior MoD source said that the RAF was the victim of "salami slicing", while the other two services had been more effectively restructured to meet the expected demands of the next century.

The cuts in frontline aircraft will not affect the RAF's Jaguar squadrons. The Jaguar is a single-seat aircraft and will be needed as part of the training for the new single-seat Eurofighter aircraft which will replace it. There is also a continuing service and maintenance link with Oman, which still operates Jaguars, making it impractical to reduce the size of the RAF Jaguar squadrons.

The RAF now has 336 frontline combat aircraft on operational service with another 140 in "in-use" reserve. Other aircraft that are

in storage are not counted. The proposed 10 per cent cut in frontline aircraft in operational squadrons should not mean the RAF losing any of its present roles and commitments.

The Royal Navy will not escape without having to make some sacrifices. There is to be a political commitment to replace the three small aircraft carriers with two large 50,000-tonne carriers, capable of carrying 150 jet fighters between them. The carriers will cost between £3 billion and £4 billion.

However, it seems that the battle to keep 12 nuclear submarines has been lost because of Treasury pressure. The review is now expected to say that the Navy's nuclear "hunter killer" submarine force will be reduced from 12 to 10. Plans to order two more of the new Astute Class submarines are expected to be scrapped.

The number of destroyers and frigates will also be cut from 35 to 32, although there is still no final decision because of Foreign Office concerns about Britain's continuing commitments around the world. Royal Navy frigates and destroyers continue to play important roles in the West Indies, the Falklands and the Gulf and are vital when the Government wishes to participate in emergency humanitarian missions.

The publication of the White Paper that will detail the results of the defence review is now expected late next month or early July.

Mixed-sex ward plan blocked

By a Correspondent

FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, forced a London hospital to revise its plans yesterday to introduce mixed-sex wards for psychiatric patients.

Riverside Mental Health NHS Trust was planning to have four mixed-sex wards, with a total of 57 beds, in its proposed £6.8 million mental health unit. The trust, which is responsible for mental health services at Charing Cross Hospital, chose the mixed-sex option on economic grounds. The wards would have had single-sex areas.

But Mr Dobson overruled the plan yesterday. He told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*: "At the general election, we said we would proceed as quickly as we could to eliminate mixed sex wards. When this proposal for actually spending £6.8 million of taxpayers' money on creating new mixed sex wards was drawn to my attention in the

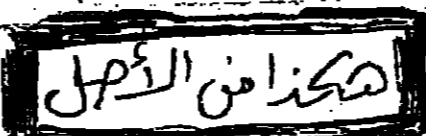
House of Commons, I said that it was the first I had heard of it and if that was what they intended I would stop it.

"I have looked into it. I know that it is mixed-sex wards, and I have stopped it. I don't sympathise with anybody who does something plainly in contradiction of the Government's stated policy on which we were elected.

"We said we would eliminate mixed sex wards. We recognise that in certain places, because major schemes aren't yet available, major changes can't be made. We have got to make do with minor improvements but I'm not prepared to countenance the spending of £6.8 million of taxpayers' money flying directly in the face of our election promise and in a way that would be harmful to patients. That's why I have stopped this proposal."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons, Foreign Office questions; Scotland Bill, report about details on process of case screening. In the Lords: European Communities (Amendment) Bill, report, debate on change to older vehicles that could be cleaned by abolition of leaded petrol.



ARMS SHIPMENTS AFFAIR

Cook did not know before, says minister

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

A GOVERNMENT minister yesterday denied for the first time that Robin Cook had any prior knowledge of the arms shipments to Sierra Leone...

The letter, which was dated April 24, had been passed through the FO chain of command. "There was no prior knowledge because there was no note of any form until that date," he added.

Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer who originally raised the allegations with the Government, told peers that "whilst we should not assume that allegations that have been made are true, neither should we assume that they are false".

He accused the Prime Minister — in praising the job done by the British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold — of "undermining the investigation which is underway". He said Mr Blair had also undermined the position of the Foreign Secretary by dismissing alleged breaches of the United Nations embargo as "hoo-ha".

Lord Moynihan, an Opposition Foreign Office spokesman who tabled the emergency question, said that the comments amounted to saying "the end justifies the means — even if you have to breach UN arms embargoes and tear up your ethical foreign policies."

Lady Symons said: "You are quite wrong. There is no 'new' foreign policy. The Prime Minister said quite clearly: 'Of course, it is the case that nobody should be involved deliberately in breaking a UN arms embargo'."



Lady Symons, who yesterday tried to dampen speculation about Mr Cook's role

Blair counting on the 'Dog and Duck' test

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Government is still floundering over the Sierra Leone arms affair. Its explanations are continuing to change. Downing Street tactics shifted sharply again yesterday. The Prime Minister's line was that Britain had been supporting the United Nations in its attempt to help the democratic regime...

own operation without telling ministers? Did not ministers ask any questions at the time of the counter-coup against the military junta?

Playing his "trust me Tony" card, Mr Blair yesterday argued that "a lot of the hoo-ha has been more than a little overblown". In a sense that is true of all such controversies. They matter not because of their intrinsic significance to the lives and interests of most people but because of what they reveal about the way that the Government of the day works.

By the standards of past storms from Westland to arms-for-Iraq, the Sierra Leone affair is a minor squall. But proper procedures and accountability matter. Are ministers doing their duty in taking decisions and listening to official advice?

The Blair camp is clearly calculating that the fuss does not pass the 'Dog and Duck' test. There is no evidence that the media and Westminster excitement has yet impinged on the public consciousness. The stories are all about some faraway country of which we know little, while the whole complicated saga is reminiscent of 1970s action films.

Leading article, Letters, page 21

Mr Blair's Government hopes that it will be able to defuse the matter by playing it long. First, the Customs and Excise must complete its investigation into whether Sandline broke the law. Only then, at some unspecified time in the future, will the Foreign Secretary be able to set up an inquiry headed by someone completely separate from the Foreign Office.

So we could be talking about months before the affair is resolved. However, it should be possible to distinguish between questions of illegality and whether ministers have done their duty. Mr Cook has been robust and clearcut in the defence of ministers, but he needs to do more to show that he is in command of his department.

PETER RIDDELL

Captain denies his ship was involved

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Royal Navy officer commanding the frigate HMS Cornwall, which has become embroiled in the arms-to-Africa row, denied that his crew had played any part in the overthrow of the Sierra Leone junta in February.

Captain Anthony Dymock said the mission of the Type 22 frigate to Sierra Leone had been purely humanitarian. Speaking from HMS Cornwall, which is still on patrol off West Africa, Captain Dymock said that by the time the warship had arrived in Sierra Leone the military junta had been ousted.

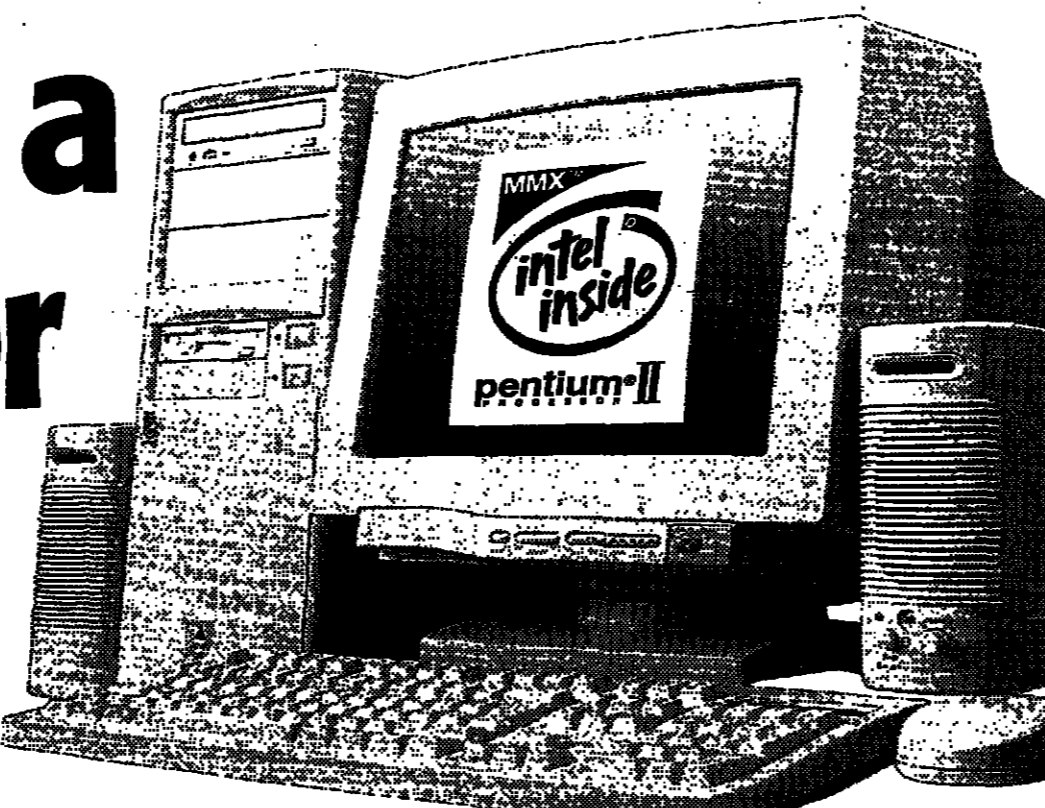
He said: "All I can say is that the role of HMS Cornwall was humanitarian and we had no involvement in coup or counter-coup activities." He was asked about the contacts with Sandline International, illustrated by photographs showing Marines from the ship standing besides Sandline's helicopter and one crew member sitting inside the cockpit holding an AK47 rifle.

Captain Dymock replied: "We had wide contacts with a large number of people in Sierra Leone and I don't want to comment on the specifics of those contacts." He added: "I am concerned that what was a successful humanitarian operation appears as though it is being overshadowed by a lot of speculation."

HMS Cornwall's humanitarian mission was reported in two stories in The Times, on March 5 and March 20. Speaking out: Civil servants at the centre of the Sandline allegations may, most unusually, ask ministers for permission to make their side of the story public (Valerie Elliott writes).

They are seeking assurances that any inquiry after the Customs investigation will allow them to disclose their version of events. Officials are said to have co-operated fully with Customs, but there is deep unhappiness about the way attention has shifted to their role.

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Sandline weapons 'arrive' too late. KICK LUN

ARMS SHIPMENTS AFFAIR

Sandline weapons 'arrived too late'

FROM SAM KILEY IN FREETOWN

SIERRA LEONE'S Government yesterday attempted to head off a diplomatic row with Britain over the "arms to Africa" scandal, denying weapons supplied by the British-run Sandline International had been used to restore President Kabbah to power.

In several interviews yesterday that will do little to clear the already murky waters surrounding the role of the Foreign Office — and of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary — in plans to ship arms to Sierra Leone, Julius Spencer, the country's Information Minister, said that the weapons had not arrived, having been "held up by British customs".

He also said that if the weapons had, in fact, been landed in Freetown, it was not until after the Nigerian-led West African Ecomog peacekeepers had restored Mr Kabbah to power in March. "If they did arrive, then they are probably being used by the Ecomog troops who continue to fight the junta."

"Whatever the case, even if the British Government hired Sandline and paid for the weapons, they should be proud," added Mr Spencer, an eminent Freetown journalist who maintained a clandestine radio station during the nine-month rule by Johnny Paul Koroma's bloody junta.

That view is shared by the majority of his countrymen who yesterday postponed a rally in support of Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, recalled to London to face Customs and Excise investigations into his alleged role in helping to set up the "arms to Africa" deal.

The postponement came after organisers learnt that

Sierra Leone's former First Lady, Patricia Kabbah, who died in London last week, was being returned to her home town for burial. On Freetown's streets, many wore lapel badges of Mrs Kabbah as a sign of respect and an endorsement of the Government elected last May.

Mr Spencer acknowledged that Sierra Leone had had a contract with Sandline to provide weapons and training to help his Government to regain power, but he appeared confused as to whether it was fulfilled. "The President paid Sandline \$10 million (£6 million) and also gave Sandline rights to prospect for diamonds in certain areas of the country," Mr Spencer said.

"But Sandline International had difficulty shipping the arms and ammunition to Sierra Leone. Eventually they informed the President that they had cleared the problem with the British customs. But even then they shipped the arms and ammunition late and they arrived in Freetown in February, after Ecomog had driven the rebels out of the capital."

He suggested that the delay in delivering the weapons had cost Sandline its diamond concessions, and was unable to say whether the British security firm had been paid.

"President Kabbah is pretty upset about the current row surrounding the Sandline affair... The United Nations arms embargo only applied to the junta, not to the legitimate Government," he said.

"The President saw no reason to consult the British Government about whether to contract Sandline International to supply arms and ammunition."



Robin Cook on his way to see Tony Blair yesterday. The Foreign Secretary spent the day preparing for his Commons appearance today

Top aide defends 'energetic' Cook

The Foreign Office is denying that its boss has been distracted or idle, Michael Binyon says

THE Foreign Office hit back yesterday at suggestions that Robin Cook was an idle Foreign Secretary, saying that there were few periods in postwar diplomacy that had been as busy.

Mr Cook had been involved in more summits, crisis meetings, conferences and European Union events than any Foreign Secretary for years, a senior diplomat said. "The suggestion that he has been idle and pissing around worrying only about his private life is nonsense," he said. "I simply don't recognise the description."

The official, who works closely with the Foreign Secretary, said Mr Cook had not neglected Africa. "He has given a much higher priority to Nigeria, for example, than his predecessor. He was closely involved in discussions about Sierra Leone at the last Commonwealth conference. It is not true he has paid little attention to Africa."

The embattled Foreign Office, struggling to fend off a storm of criticism of its own conduct, refused yesterday to justify the Sandline involvement by

arguing that the United Nations arms embargo did not apply to the ousted Government. It clearly applied to all sides, the official said. Any supply of weapons, even to the ousted government forces, was wrong.

"It is clear that it applied to the good guys as well as the bad guys. That was clearly understood when the resolution was transcribed into British law. That is the way it was written. You may think that was stupid, but the only way to put yourself on the right side of the argument is to get the law changed," he said.

Mr Cook spent yesterday preparing for his Commons appearance today, where his political future and the credibility of the Foreign Office will depend on his performance.

His spokesman said that Mr Cook was not proposing to cancel any future

engagements, despite rumours that he had cleared his diary. On Thursday he will see Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and will chair the EU-Canada summit. On Friday he goes to Birmingham for the three-day Group of Eight (G8) summit. Next week he is planning a two-day visit to Turkey.

Mr Cook has had an exhausting year. Soon after coming into office he attended the special Nato summit last May. He was then preoccupied with the handover of Hong Kong, attended the G8 summit in Denver, the UN General Assembly in New York and then took part in the state visit to Pakistan and India.

In October he was at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, followed by a tour of South-East Asia. This year has been taken up with

Britain's presidency of the European Union and with EU visits to the Middle East, Central America and the Far East. He was also engaged in preparations for the Asia-Europe meeting in London last month.

Senior diplomats cannot explain how Mr Cook failed to know about Britain's involvement in the Sierra Leone counter-coup. "There are only three explanations," one said yesterday. "Either Mr Cook is lying through his teeth. This seems unlikely. Or his officials deliberately concealed all information about the events from him and other ministers. That too seems extremely far-fetched. Or Mr Cook was preoccupied with other matters and asked only to be kept informed of big issues in Africa such as Nigeria and South Africa."

He also noted that West Africa does not attract the brightest and the best in the Foreign Office. Few of those dealing with Sierra Leone would be "high-fliers", the chances of a co-plot were far likelier than a conspiracy.

London 'was right to provide support'

By Mark Weller

THE delivery of arms and the dispatch of security personnel to Sierra Leone, in apparent violation of the United Nations Security Council sanctions, represent little more than a storm in an international lawyer's teacup.

While the underlying intention of the council was to assist in the removal of the junta, UN Sanctions Resolution 1132 somewhat incongruously applies to all parties to the conflict, including the elected Government and its forces. Obviously the Economic Community of West African States (Ecomog), acting as an agent of the Security Council, was not covered by the embargo.

Sandline International's contract for the delivery of arms was made with the deposed President Kabbah, whose Government was entitled under the resolution to co-operate in the implementation of the UN mandate. In fact, the contract expressly places the transaction in the context of the role of Ecomog, the peacekeeping operation set up by Ecomog. The weapons were in fact transferred to Ecomog. Sandline's lawyers assert that this was exactly what had been intended throughout. If that is the case, then there is no violation of UN sanctions.

Similarly, the possible involvement of America and Britain in the planning of Sandline's activities does not really pose a legal problem. Far from obliging other states to stand aside from the operation, the UN resolution explicitly urges them to provide support to assist Ecomog.

The Sandline-supplies helicopter was deployed under the direction of Ecomog. While possibly straining the original UN mandate, the Ecomog action was formally ratified by the UN Secretary-General. In fact, in a further resolution, the council urged third states to continue providing technical support for Ecomog.

The author is the Deputy Director of the Centre of International Studies in the University of Cambridge.

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Liberal Dutch hail purge on permissiveness

FROM ROGER BOYES IN LEIDEN

DUTCH youths, reeling after a few beers, are being forced to think twice before urinating in the tree-lined canals that criss-cross the country's towns and cities. Police are suddenly cracking down on all minor crimes — from those who abuse the canals (so-called *wildplasser*) to noisy vandals — in a move that resembles New York's "zero tolerance" law and order policy.

The result is that a country long regarded by the British and other Europeans as an anything-goes society is beginning to look cleaner, safer and tamer. A trawl of brothels in Amsterdam searching for under-age prostitutes and illegal immigrants has resulted in the closure of several establishments: 15 buildings in the red-light district have been sold to the city authorities.

Throughout the country, so-called coffee shops — outlets for cannabis — are feeling the squeeze. In Leiden's most popular coffee shop, which advertises its wares with a Jamaican

flag (the usual code to alert passers-by that this is not the place to seek a cappuccino), there are now strict identity controls and anyone looking remotely spotty or under-age is shown the door.

In Leeuwarden, police are imposing instant fines of £150 on youths kicking beer cans around on the streets or shouting after midnight. The town has also announced a 41-point programme called "No to Violence". One of its measures is a training course for bouncers at discotheques and pubs. They are taught how to eject troublemakers without violence. The courts have adopted accelerated procedures: youths involved in brawls will face charges within four days.

The police throughout the country have become very visible. In Leiden — an ancient university town which has always specialised in international law — students are complaining about the alleged arrogance of mounted police patrols. But on the whole the

officers' presence is welcomed by inhabitants.

The social climate has changed radically over the past few months. "For years an influential left-leaning elite of social scientists, politicians and journalists trivialised crime," the daily *De Volkskrant* newspaper wrote. Now, it says, "people are realising that social life deteriorates rapidly if small offences are tolerated."

The turning point seems to have come last autumn. A young man in the city centre of Leeuwarden tried to break up a fight between two young drunks and was kicked to death. The man, Melindert Tjoelker, was about to get married and the case touched Dutch hearts. The city police chief appealed to the country to demonstrate against "this growing madness." The call was printed in almost all national newspapers and 20,000 people paraded through the streets on the day the young man should have married.

Last year, 39 people were killed in The Netherlands in similar circumstances, caught up in alcohol or drug-driven street fights. While this hardly puts Holland at the top of the international crime league, the Dutch clearly feel a line has been crossed. In 1985, 3,000 youths were arrested for violent crimes; now it is more like 8,000 a year.

Mieke Komen, an Amsterdam sociologist, has fuelled the debate with a best selling book, *Dangerous Children*. She argues that relaxing external controls on youths has in no sense led to more self-control despite the thesis put forward by various Dutch liberals. On the contrary, shoplifting was largely ignored as an offence in Dutch cities for decades. Now there is a wave of serious and violent theft.

"Self-control can only be taught — and it is precisely this teaching that is missing in our society," says Dr Komen.



Jean Cardot's 10ft 6in bronze statue of Churchill to be erected in central Paris

Franks slow to roll in for Paris statue of Churchill

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A PROJECT to erect a statue in Paris in honour of Sir Winston Churchill has run deeply into debt, with only a trickle of donations coming in from the French public.

The plan to put up a Churchill memorial in the French capital was launched four years ago, but so far only £35,000 has been raised from French donors, barely a sixth of the estimated cost, according to Brian Reeve, 62, a British-born businessman who is leading the project.

The statue, created by Jean

Cardot, is due to be unveiled on the Avenue Winston Churchill, off the Champs-Élysées, on November 11 in the presence of a member of the Royal Family and President Chirac. The bronze sculpture, which will stand 10ft 6in high and weigh three tonnes, is close to completion and Mr Reeve has had to take out big bank loans to meet the rising cost.

The businessman said he began campaigning for a Churchill memorial in 1993 after a statue of General de Gaulle was erected outside

the French leader's wartime headquarters in London.

Lady Soames, Churchill's daughter, headed the committee that raised £300,000 in Britain to pay for the De Gaulle memorial. Although many French politicians have backed the idea of a Churchill statue, the public response has been poor.

"If things continue as they are going, with such a big shortfall, I... am going to be standing in front of the statue with a tin begging cup," Mr Reeve said.

WORLD IN BRIEF

German bank 'had Holocaust gold'

Bonn: Melted-down fillings from Holocaust victims' teeth were probably used to create about 1,320lb (600kg) of gold bars held by Germany's largest commercial bank, Deutsche Bank AG, during the Second World War, Hersch Fischer, an independent German researcher, said yesterday. He doubted Deutsche's management knew of its origin, the ingots having come from the secretive prewar Reichsbank central bank.

Jonathan Steinberg, a Cambridge University historian commissioned by Deutsche to investigate its prewar gold business, had already confirmed that the 1,320lb was "Melmer gold" — named after Bruno Melmer, the SS officer in charge of valuables seized from Jews and other Nazi victims killed between 1942 and 1944. It was probably taken from bodies at Auschwitz and Lublin concentration camps.

Deutsche and Degussa AG, the metal company said to have refined and melted "Melmer gold", would not comment until historians had completed separate independent investigations into each company. (Reuters)

France mints first euro

Paris: A euro coin was struck and scrutinised at France's official mint in the southwest town of Pessac, near Bordeaux, making the country the first of the 11 nations participating in the single currency's launch to produce the money.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, right, the Finance Minister, pressed a button so that the press fell on the one-euro coin. He then tested it with his teeth, declaring it to be "the real thing". Euro notes and coins replace national currencies in January 2002. (AFP)



Paraguay 'rigging' protest

The right-wing Colorado Party which has ruled Paraguay for the past 50 years claimed victory in general elections amid allegations of fraud (Gabriella Gamini writes). Opinion polls gave Raul Cubas, 54, a 5 per cent lead over Domingo Laíno, 62, the opposition Democratic Alliance candidate. The charges of rigging put at risk the nine-year experiment with democracy after the dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner.

Half of 737s have wire faults

Washington: About half the older Boeing 737 planes inspected for wiring damage have noticeable wear and tear. A Federal Aviation Administration official said: "As of this morning [Monday] we've got about 47 inspections in and it's still holding true to form. That is about 50 per cent are showing some signs of abrasions." It is feared that damaged wires carrying high voltage power could ignite fuel tanks. (Reuters)

My Lai massacre reporter dies

New Orleans: Ron Ridenhour, a soldier turned journalist who exposed the 1968 My Lai massacre, has died near here, apparently of a heart attack. He was 52. During the Vietnam War, an army company led by Lieutenant William Calley murdered about 500 Vietnamese civilians in My Lai village. (AP)

Band will hit the high notes

Kathmandu: Nepali and Japanese musicians plan to set a world record for the highest concert during a television show from Kalapathar, 18,044ft up on the slopes of Mount Everest, the official RSS news agency said. Iswor Gurung, the group's singer, said the concert was aimed at boosting tourism to Nepal. (AFP)

Hero status of bloody colonialist questioned

BY ROGER BOYES

A NEW debate about the colonial past of The Netherlands has been unleashed by the disclosure that Hendrik Colijn, one of the country's most respected politicians, took part in war crimes in Bali.

"I had to put nine women and three children, who were begging for mercy, on to a pile and have them shot," Colijn wrote in a letter to his wife. "The soldiers took pleasure in sticking the bayonets into the natives." During the massacre a century ago, Colijn, then aged 25, lit up a cigar.

In 1934, Colijn led a punitive expedition against a Bali prince who was objecting to the Dutch opium trade. Local women and children defended

their homes and were slaughtered. In all, the Dutch killed 2,000 Balinese in the action. In 1904 Colijn was still writing with pride about his adventures: it made no sense to go to war, he wrote, if one could not shoot women and children.

After his colonial activities Colijn, who is regarded as a founding father of modern Dutch politics, became Army Minister in the First World War. In the inter-war years he was six times Prime Minister and then, after his political retirement, he became chairman of Royal Dutch Shell, the oil company.

Now Dutch critics are arguing that his name should be removed from street signs and a full history written.

Strike delays Gucci murder trial

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MILAN

THE first day of the murder trial of the former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the late heir to the Italian fashion empire, was over almost as soon as it began yesterday, as a lawyers' strike forced a week's adjournment.

Dozens of spectators attended court, hoping to see Patrizia Reggiani Martinelli, the woman dubbed the "Black Widow" by the Italian media, Gucci's former wife, but she exercised her right as a defendant not to attend, preferring to stay in her cell.

Prosecutors contend that she masterminded the 1995 shooting of Gucci, the grandson of the founder of the company famed for its luxury leather products. They allege

she hired a two-man hit team through a high-society psychic and a hotel doorman after her former husband halved her annual alimony to \$900,000 (£560,000).

Benedetto Ceraulo, who prosecutors say was the man who shot Gucci as he walked inside his Milan office building, took his place in the courtroom's steel-bar holding cage. Two other defendants, Giuseppina Auritemma, the supposed psychic, and Ivano Savioni, the doorman, sat in court surrounded by policemen. The fifth defendant, Orazio Cicala, who prosecutors say was the other hired hitman, did not attend.

All five are charged with murder. Signora Reggiani

Martinelli and Signora Auritemma, once close friends, have bitterly accused each other in the case.

The Guccis married in 1972 and separated 12 years later.

Judge Renato Sarnek Lodovici adjourned the trial to May 19. He did not immediately decide if photographers and television operators may attend the next session.

Signora Reggiani Martinelli, 49, made clear through her lawyers that she did not want cameras in court when she is required to attend.

Lawyers will be on strike until Friday in support of a new law that requires witnesses to reiterate in open court what they tell prosecutors in pre-trial sessions.



Ceraulo: behind bars in court's holding cage

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India ignores West's nuclear test warnings

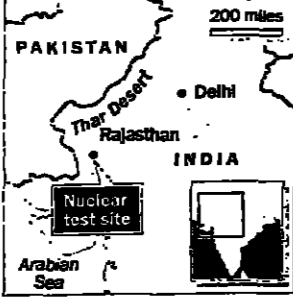
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S three nuclear tests yesterday have set it on a confrontation course with the United States and much of the West, demonstrating how little the new Government led by Hindu nationalists cares about international opinion.

The blasts were a warning to neighbouring China and Pakistan that their nuclear programmes would not go unanswered. The explosions also marked the emergence of a defiant style of government influenced by Hindu right-wingers angered by what they perceive as years of appeasement of Pakistan, which has backed a Muslim uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir for almost a decade.

Tensions between the neighbours have boiled over at least twice this year as both sides bombarded each other with artillery shells across the Kashmir border, showing how easily they could slip into full-scale war. A nuclear arms race between the two nations is one of the worst nightmares of Western military analysts. Plainly it is now in full flight.

International condemnation poured into Delhi within hours of the nuclear tests.



Pakistan called for international sanctions and Sri Lanka said the blasts would further destabilise the region. Washington immediately began considering the possibility of sanctions.

Pakistan is developing nuclear and missile know-how with the aid of China, and has a missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads deep into India. Hostility between the two countries has rarely been greater than now. There have been serious clashes across the disputed Kashmir border.

Yesterday's tests were designed in part to warn Beijing and Islamabad that India will respond decisively to what it perceives as menacing nuclear developments across its borders. The development of intermediate-range ballistic missiles in Pakistan has wiped out India's main military ad-

vantage over its neighbour, leaving it with a greater sense of vulnerability than at any time since partition in 1947.

The newly elected Indian Government, led by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, said when it came to power two months ago that it would keep open the option of commissioning nuclear weapons. It has ordered a review to decide whether the time is right to do so. Any deployment would almost certainly be matched by Pakistan. China would also doubtless respond, possibly by targeting missiles towards India.

The US and other countries had privately warned India that aid and other economic assistance could be cut off if it carried out nuclear tests. Washington intervened secretly in 1995 to halt what it suspected were plans by Delhi to conduct a nuclear test.

This time nobody outside the highest political circles had any idea that the test, the first by India since 1974, was being planned. It is a measure of India's sense of military insecurity that it is willing to risk harsh economic repercussions to update its nuclear knowledge and send a warning to its neighbours.

The 1974 explosion was In-



An Indian Prithvi missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, is displayed in Delhi earlier this year during the 49th Republic Day parade

dia's answer to nuclear developments in China, which first exploded a nuclear device in 1964. Beijing has been sharing nuclear and missile technology with Pakistan for years in order to build it into a counterweight to Indian power in South Asia. China still occupies large tracts of land captured from India in the early 1960s and both sides deploy large numbers of troops along

their border. India also announced yesterday that it had successfully test-fired its most sophisticated surface-to-air missile, the short-range Trishul, from its missile range in the eastern state of Orissa.

The rapid development of missile technology in India and Pakistan represents the greatest scramble in 50 years of mutual hostility to outclass each other in high-tech arma-

ments, in spite of the formidable economic costs.

The test yesterday has dashed American hopes that President Clinton might persuade India to restrain its nuclear programme when he visits Delhi in the summer during a tour of South Asian capitals.

The new Indian Government has made it clear that it is not interested in making

nuclear deals — not even if it were offered a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, which it has long coveted.

□ Birmingham talks: The Indian nuclear tests are certain to be high on the agenda as world leaders meet this weekend for the G8 summit in Birmingham (Michael Binyon writes).

Lloyd Axworthy, the Cana-

dian Foreign Minister, said in London yesterday that it would dominate the three-day meeting. "I'm sure it will be a topic that will be front and centre of the Birmingham meeting. Frankly, it is a very major regressive step."

India is one of the few countries that has refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

'Arms race has been forced upon us'

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN said yesterday that it had been sucked into a nuclear weapons and missile race and reserved the right to take all appropriate measures for its security. It promised to make its defences impregnable against any nuclear threat from India.

Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, told the Senate that the resumption of nuclear testing by India was no surprise. "Pakistan has repeatedly drawn attention of the international community towards India's clandestine nuclear weapon programme. But it did not receive the response it merited," he said.

Mr Khan accused the international community of encouraging India to

achieve nuclear capability. "By adopting a dismissive approach, the international community in fact allowed India to develop its nuclear weapon programme," he said. He told Reuters Television his country had been "sucked into a nuclear weapons race and a missile race which has been forced upon us".

The country urged the international community to condemn India for the nuclear test and impose sanctions against Delhi. The blasts are likely to put Pakistan's Government under immense political pressure to match Delhi's capability. A strong bomb lobby in the country has long called for Pakistan to shed its nuclear ambiguity. Last month Dr Abdul

Qadeer Khan, the chief of Pakistan's nuclear programme, said he was ready for a nuclear test.

Pakistan is believed to have the capability to assemble several nuclear bombs at very short notice. But because of international pressure it has refrained from a test. The nation launched its nuclear programme after India's first test in 1974. According to some senior officials, Islamabad had gained nuclear weapons capability by 1987. Last month it successfully tested a medium-range Ghauri missile, believed to be capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

□ Bhutto warrant: A Sindh court issued no-bail warrants for the arrest of Benazir Bhutto, the Opposition leader, on charges of illegally handing out jobs. (Reuters)



Khan: blamed world for ignoring warnings

Washington weighs sanctions options after Clinton dismay

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES

PRESIDENT Clinton declared he was "deeply disappointed" with India's decision as the US considered imposing economic sanctions against Delhi.

State Department officials said that they were weighing up the use of sanctions to try to halt India's development of nuclear weapons and to tackle the rising tension between India and Pakistan.

Mr Clinton, who is plan-

ning an autumn trip to India, is deeply concerned that the hostility could provoke a regional arms race, push China into an even less co-operative stance in international arms talks, and further complicate the Middle East peace talks.

The CIA now regards the India-Pakistan frontier as the world's most likely nuclear flashpoint. A recent trip to Delhi and Islamabad by Bill Richardson, US Ambassador

to the United Nations, failed to ease tension over the build-up of long-range missiles or to make progress on bringing either nation within the umbrella of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Possible targets for sanctions against India range from high technology and military technology to fuel, analysts suggested yesterday. India imports a fifth of its energy needs, and fuel makes up nearly a third of its total import bill, according to World Bank figures for 1997.

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MON 25

Calais

Politicians and generals urge Suharto to go

THE absent President Suharto of Indonesia suffered a double political blow yesterday when an important Muslim leader and a group of retired generals came out against his continuation in office.

Amin Rais, whom many see as a potential leader of the country, called on the army to end its support for the President. His public declaration is an important departure because he has been in close touch with the army leadership about the country's political future over the past few months.

His particular contact has been President Suharto's son-in-law, General Prabowo, who commands the key strategic troops. Privately General Prabowo has been urging the moderate leader of the 28 million Muslims who make up the Muhammadiyah movement to allow time for the "father of the nation" to reach his own conclusions about whether or when he should leave office. Clearly he believes the time has come for all parties to take a stand to prevent a collapse of national order.

It was not clear from yesterday's statement whether Mr Rais had co-ordinated his announcement with the army leadership, but senior officers, although they are handpicked by the President, will be aware that the army's reputation will suffer grievously if violent deaths continue at the present rate.

Mr Rais told cheering supporters in Jakarta that the Suharto regime was the most corrupt in the universe. Thousands of his members then chanted "People power, people power". Taking their cue from

The Indonesian leader's woes are multiplying, David Watts writes from Solo

the newly active People's Assembly, the 39 retired generals and politicians said that the body should repudiate the President's rubberstamp election that took place in March. The protest was led by Ali Sadikin, a retired three-star general, who was prominent in the Suharto Government in the 1970s. Issuing a statement, with a petition signed by 39 leading figures, he said that for too long the Government had been using state money for personal interests.

Speaking in Cairo, where he is attending the Group of 15 economic summit, President Suharto said that his people must accept painful sacrifices



Suharto: "People must accept painful sacrifices"

to help to contain the fallout from the Asian financial crisis. He warned the other leaders that the crisis could spill over into other parts of the world: "We are convinced there is a dire need to intensify international co-operation if the Asian crisis is to be overcome and if its impact is to be mitigated."

In Solo, central Java, tensions are high since at least four people died last Friday. This area has been a centre of radicalism ever since the Indonesian independence movement began in the early 1920s. The Suharto family roots and the grave of his wife, Tien, are close by. The human price of the unrest is apparent at the central hospital. Up to 400 people were injured in the violence at one of the city's largest universities. Many of them are still in hospital.

Between wards packed with the injured, two students have laid out mats in the spots, white-tiled corridor where they keep a 24-hour vigil: the army still has a reputation for removing evidence from the scenes of its clashes with the public. A young Catholic boy said: "The place is crawling with intelligence agents. We are here to make sure that they do not kidnap any of the wounded."

Inside a ward one young man stares mindlessly at the ceiling, his pupils dilated while bandages hide a severe head wound. He squeezes a pillow between his knees for comfort, but it is not clear whether he is registering anything else.

Diagonally across from him a young farmer sits bolt upright on his bed, a bandage across his left eye, which he will most likely lose after it was struck by a plastic bullet.



Amin Rais, speaking in Jakarta yesterday, told his Muhammadiyah movement supporters that the Suharto regime was the most corrupt in the universe

At each bedside is a rush mat for family members who, like the students, keep watch over their loved ones. But they also have to worry about the cost of care. The Government gives no financial assistance to the already poor families hit by this tragedy.

Nobody is sure how many were killed last Friday, but it is clear that many of the victims were innocent passers-by, peasants returning home from

work in the nearby fields. Witnesses said that they saw troops shoot two students who were lying on the ground, but because the army removes bodies promptly from the scene of such actions, that is impossible to confirm.

Although the army is supposed to give warning, calling on protesters to disperse before using force, Mohamed Taufik, a local member of parliament for the opposition

Bogus offices hide shame of Japan jobless

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AKIRA MURAKAMI'S card is suitably impressive: it describes him as the department chief of a technical consultancy, with offices in a busy commercial district of Tokyo.

But try the number, and he is never there: a "secretary" says in a sweet voice that he is out on an appointment, and she is not sure when he will be back. That is not surprising: the job, the office and the secretary are all a sham. Mr Murakami (not his real name) is not a con artist, however. He is a former manager overwhelmed by the shame of being unemployed.

Last December he fell victim to Japan's chronic economic slump: his small building firm, with a blank order book and a pile of debts, shed senior staff to survive. At 52, with little hope of finding a job, Mr Murakami began renting an alibi from a firm that creates cover stories for people with shameful secrets.

Far more than in other countries, loss of job equals not only loss of self-esteem, but also utter loss of identity in Japan. That is why people such as Mr Murakami turn to Create Corporation or one of the other hundreds of *alibiya* that are prospering from the recession. Clients pay between 5,000 and 20,000 yen (£23 to £92) a month to "rent" an alibi tailored to their needs. The service is mainly used by young women in the sex trade who deceive their parents with the illusion of a respectable office job, and entrepreneurs who just want to save the cost of an office.

But this is not immediately apparent. If people are suffering hardship, they go to elaborate lengths to hide it from others.

Government figures show that unemployment in March hit a postwar high of 3.9 per cent, or 2.77 million. While still low by Western standards, the figure is likely to rise as firms cut output to cope with a slump in consumer demand. Labour experts say the rate would double if firms laid off their surplus labour.

The visitor searches in vain for signs of distress in one of the world's richest countries. There has been no marked increase in the number of people sleeping rough in Tokyo's central Shinjuku sta-

¶ If people are suffering hardship, they go to elaborate lengths to hide it from others ¶

tion, the favoured "home" of the capital's down-and-outs, and beggars are unknown in Japan.

But last month, Nobuhisa Watanabe, 43, a former company president, burnt to death in his apartment. Police said the cause of the fire was a candle - Mr Watanabe's only source of light and heat since electricity and gas were cut off months ago. He had been jobless for three years.

In another case, an elderly widow and her daughter starved to death rather than seek help from neighbours. At least thirty-two people died of starvation in Tokyo last year. Apparently they were too proud to apply for welfare benefits.

Manila exit polls point to Estrada landslide

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

VOTERS turned out in huge numbers yesterday to elect a successor to President Ramos in the second free ballot since democracy was restored to the Philippines in 1986.

Initial surveys show that Joseph Estrada, a playboy and former actor, was leading with 45 per cent in the ten-man race. José de Venecia, the Speaker and the administration candidate endorsed by President Ramos, was trailing at 26 per cent.

Cardinal Jaime Sin, the influential Archbishop of Manila, appealed to voters to reject Mr Estrada, but yesterday's exit polls pointed to a landslide victory for him, at

least in the capital, Manila. At the end of polling, a confident Mr Estrada thanked the voters for "electing me President".

The electoral enthusiasm was in stark contrast to the lack of democracy in some South-East Asian countries, such as Indonesia, where there are protests at the lack of a free vote in 30 years. In Cambodia, due to hold polls in July, there are fears that a fair ballot may be impossible. While Thailand had a democratic constitution voted in only last year, the military junta in Burma continues to repress pro-democracy forces. The transition to constitutional government in the Philippines after the long Marcos dictatorship has inspired democratic forces in the region.

Yesterday almost 34 million Filipinos

voted to elect a President and Vice-President for a six-year term, as well as senators, congressional representatives to the bicameral house, governors, mayors, councillors and sectional representatives.

The poll watchdog group, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, described the polls as "peaceful but disorderly". In some regions rebel candidates were harassed and some voters were unable to find their names on the electoral list. Election-day violence claimed at least ten lives and 15 were injured. Most of the deaths occurred in Mindanao.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the watchdog group, said the voter turnout was 80 per cent. "We think it is in the neighbourhood of 80 per cent."

President Ramos, 70, is stepping down because the Constitution bars a second term. During his stewardship he successfully steered the Philippines into the ranks of Asia's emerging economies.

After a gruelling three-month campaign, the ten disparate presidential candidates reflect the state of Philippine democracy, fledgling and rowdy but a body politic that allows anyone to take a shot at the nation's top job, including convicted criminals such as Imelda Marcos, 68, the colourful wife of the deposed dictator. She dropped out of the race in the last stretch, and was thought to be seeking to strike a deal with Mr Estrada, who was Mr Ramos's Vice-President, in return for her support. Mr Estrada has hinted that he could pardon her.



Joseph Estrada greets supporters after casting his vote in Manila

Cambodia bones may be those of tourists

FROM CAROLINE GLÜCK IN PHNOM PENH

REMAINS believed to be those of two Belgian tourists, feared to have been abducted and killed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, have been found at a hilltop temple near Cambodia's Thai border. The bones, burnt and buried, were at the foot of a cliff at Preah Vihear, and will be taken to Belgium for DNA testing.

Natalie Robaric and her husband, Michel Baran, disappeared in 1994 when they

crossed into Cambodia to visit the 11th-century Preah Vihear temple. They were among ten foreigners believed to have been abducted by the Khmer Rouge within a few months. Only one, an American aid worker, was set free.

The British, French and Australian Ambassadors to Cambodia have called on the Government to arrest Nuon Paet, a former Khmer Rouge commander wanted on charges of killing three foreign tourists, one of them Mark Slater, a Briton.

Fuel tanker crew 'killed by smoke'

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE commander of *HMAS Westralia*, on which four people died after an explosion engulfed the engine room, was exonerated by the findings of a post-mortem examination yesterday. It concluded that the crew members on the Australian navy's largest ship died of severe smoke inhalation, not as a result of his decision to flood the area with carbon dioxide. Commander Stuart Dietrich had to make the hardest decision of his life when he ordered the blazing engine room of the 40,000-tonne fuel supply tanker to be sealed and flooded with CO₂ to contain the fire, without knowing if the four crew trapped inside were alive.

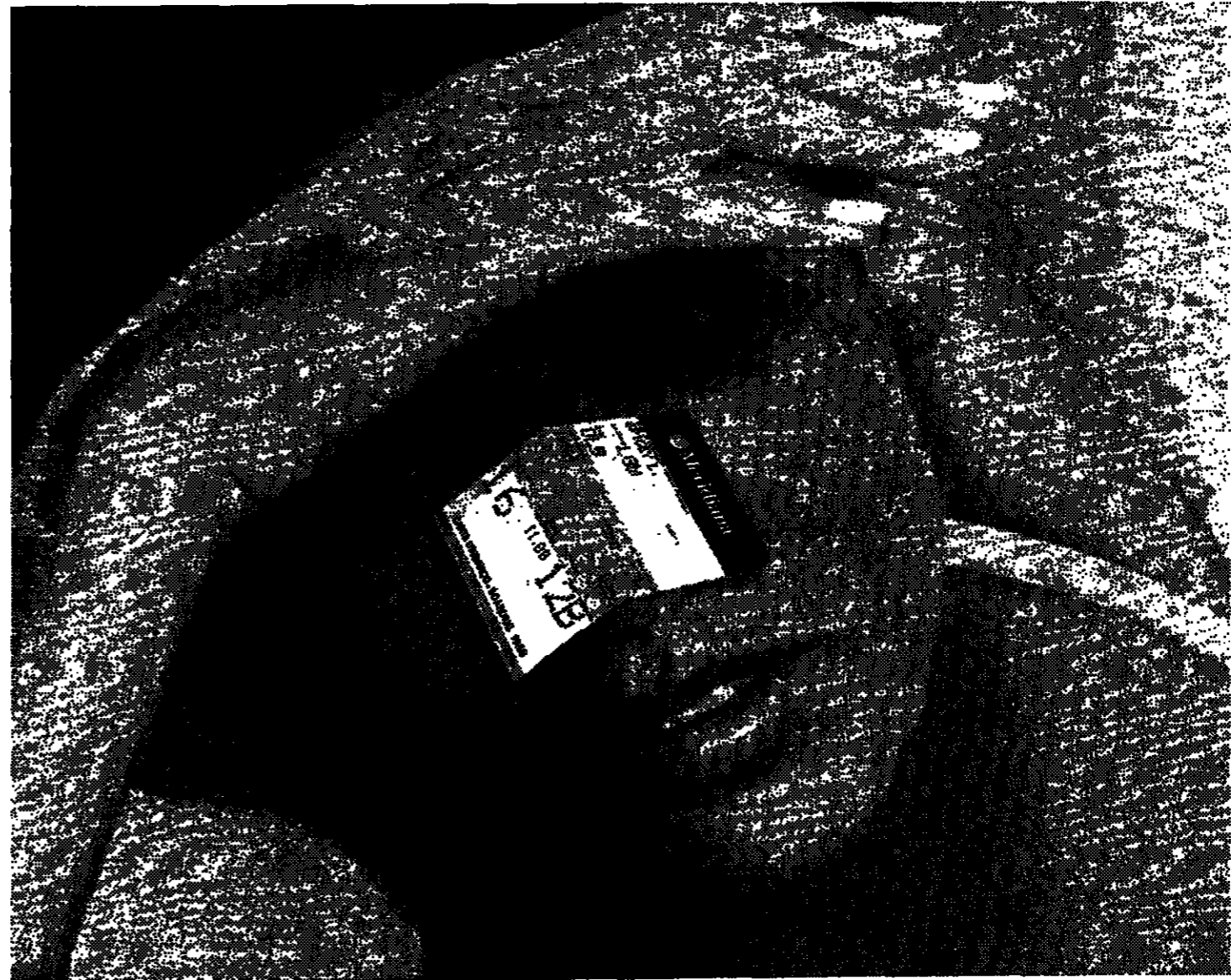
A naval board of inquiry also heard yesterday that Commander Dietrich had twice refused to drench the engine room with carbon dioxide, hoping to get the four out alive, before issuing the order to do so.

Opening the two-week inquiry into the disaster, Commander Richard Lamacraft, the board president, said: "I expect we will hear of extraordinary heroism... the inquiry will not confine itself to what went wrong. We will also look at how the horrific experience of the *Westralia* crew can be used to make life at sea easier."

The five-strong board was told yesterday that ruptured fuel lines, which caused the disaster, had been replaced days before by civilian contractors. The lines had suffered leakage problems up until the ship set sail.

Three men and a woman, aged between 22 and 29, died in the disaster. She was serving her first day at sea.

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The road to self-knowledge: "I am content that I have found the final piece in the jigsaw puzzle. I have finally found out where I came from," says Jennifer Turnbull

My father, the stranger

When Jennifer Turnbull finally traced her biological parents and found out who she really was, she was also filled with mixed emotions

For as long as I can remember I have known that I was adopted. I felt very special as my father told me that I had been chosen. To this day I have a mental picture of my parents going into a shop with slatted shelves filled with babies and picking me out from the others. I remember proudly telling my schoolfriends that I was adopted, but somehow it became a weapon to tease me with because I was different. At my father's family for the most part did not acknowledge my existence and so it was a little wonder that I began to feel that being adopted was something I should never mention — otherwise I would be treated like a second-class citizen.

It is amazing to think that I have kept this secret, afraid of telling even my closest friends that I was adopted in case they thought differently of me. I told my husband before we were married but never told anyone in his family or even my own children, twins, who are 17 this year, until a few months ago.

I had always wanted to find out where I came from and decided that at some point I would find my natural parents.

After the law changed in 1975 and made birth records available, I began to think about starting the search.

Just over a year ago, I decided that I was ready, and that I had enough confidence in myself to accept whatever I found. My worst fear was that

I would discover that one or the other of my birth parents had criminal tendencies. I contacted an organisation from an advertisement and one of their qualified researchers began looking for my mother's birth certificate, based on the age I was told she was when she had me. After several fruitless weeks she decided to look for her marriage certificate, and found that she had married a fine art restorer three years after my birth. Three years later, she had a daughter and two years after that a son.

As an only child it was strange to be told that I had siblings. It was as if my whole being was in question. Was I still an only child? Was I still the same person? The search continued, now looking for the marriages of the two offspring, but to no avail. The researcher was able to ask a friend who worked in social services whether my birth mother or her daughter was known to them through collecting a pension or child maintenance. The reply came back that the daughter was known and that the mother was probably deceased. All that remained was to look for the death certificate. She had died five years previously.

I felt sad, upset that I would now never meet my birth mother and also that I would never find my birth father as he was not named on the birth certificate.

I wondered whether I had the right to contact my half-sister and tell her of my existence in my search for information. The informant on the death certificate was my half-sister and her address was given. A quick check with the electoral role in the area where she lived confirmed that she was still there. I felt it was my only way forward: I had to try to finish what I had started, and if I could not meet my birth mother to find out what sort of person she was, perhaps her daughter would help me. The social worker involved in my case then wrote explaining that there was someone who believed that she was related to the family. Jane rang back immediately, knowing exactly who it was: her mother had told her about me years ago and she had always intended to find me. We talked on the phone and I arranged to visit her — it turned out she lived only an hour away by car. We met the next day: it was an incredibly emotional experience, the first time that I had met someone to whom I was really related. She welcomed me with open arms and was very pleased that I had made contact. We talked for hours and she showed me

photographs of her mother, my birth mother: that was the most traumatic moment, seeing the face of the woman who had given birth to me. I was shocked and yet pleased to see a likeness. Jane told me that my mother had been a writer. She was talented and artistic, able to paint, design and sew clothes as well.

The only disappointment was that Jane knew nothing about my father. The trail seemed to go completely cold. Then, about six weeks later, I received a call from the social worker who had been given my adoption file from the local authority where I was adopted. On the last page of a thick file was my biological father's name.

He had been a medical student at Guy's and so a letter was sent there, inquiring about his details. I had already gained access to the British Medical Association register and found he was not on the list of qualified doctors in Britain. As he had an unusual name, I trawled the telephone directories of the South East and found an elderly lady in Farnham of the same name. Her husband had recently died, but his family were German-Jewish refugees and doctors and medical professors. She told me of a branch of the family who had changed their name and gone to America. I phoned Guy's and a clerk checked the Anglicised version of the name and confirmed that my father had been a student there. He gave me the full name, along with his date of birth and date of graduation. I then rang the American Medical Association and found he was a dermatologist, living in California.

I was shaking when he answered the phone. I asked if he remembered my birth mother. He said yes. I told him that I had documents showing him to be my natural father. There was a pause, then he said: "I always wondered if this might happen."

The following seconds were filled with silence. Then I explained how I had found him and that I wanted to know the circumstances of my birth and genetic background. He said that every year on my birthday he had thought about me. I was surprised he remembered, given that he never saw me or had any contact with my birth mother again.

We talked for quite a while and he asked me to send a photograph. He told me that he had four children, so now I had four half-sisters and two half-brothers. They had followed him into the medical profession, apart from one, who was a professor of economics. I was amazed that his children were academic while my birth mother's children were artistic. I wondered if perhaps I had a bit of both.

There is no handbook on greeting a parent after 46 years

how could I feel anything for a total stranger, albeit a natural parent? Perhaps this was the greatest disappointment, rather similar to the myth of motherhood, where I expected a great flood of maternal devotion when I saw my children and felt distinctly unnatural because I didn't feel anything.

Maybe in time I would feel something, but then I don't need another father and he already has four children, so is there any point? We will keep in touch, and next year on my birthday he will probably send me a card to mark the significance of our meeting. I am comforted by the fact that he is an honourable person, loved by his family and well-respected in his field. He is not a serial killer or a drug addict and if there is a gene for intelligence, then somewhere in my genetic make-up I should have the intellectual ability that I had always lacked the confidence to express. I am content that I have found the final piece in the jigsaw puzzle. I have finally found out where I came from.

The message on MS is still hopeful

Déjà vu is defined by psychiatrists as the subjective sensation that a rare experience has occurred on a previous occasion. When people who are interested in multiple sclerosis woke yesterday morning to the early news and the Today programme, they must have wondered if they were suffering from the condition.

Surely, they must have thought, we have heard all about recombinant Interferon beta-1a before? Why has it suddenly made the headlines again? Had the editorial staff forgotten or have the listeners developed some mental disorder? In fact, there was no need to worry, déjà vu is experienced by people who are perfectly normal, but on this occasion there was no psychological aberration. This was a variation on last year's story when a similar drug was introduced.

Interferon beta-1a — whether Avonex produced by Biogen and introduced in 1996 or Rebif, a close relative, introduced this year by Serono UK — gives the best opportunity yet of hope for the 85,000 people in Britain who have MS.

The minor variations between the structure of the two preparations may be of more importance than mere academic interest to doctors who have been working on the products. Rebif is given in much larger doses and is given subcutaneously, just under the skin, three times a week. Avonex is injected into the muscle once a week in a smaller dose. All that British MS patients want is that those likely to benefit from Interferon beta-1a have as good a chance of receiving it as sufferers in Europe.

MS frequently causes loss of vision, weakness in the limbs, changes in sensation and a bladder which has a mind of its own. It can affect the patient's mood and, in time, leads to paralysis and disability. In the UK, the Northern patient is better off than those in the South East, as there is considerable variation between health authorities in their preparedness to pay for the drug.

In general, few authorities show much enthusiasm for neurological disease, but they tend to be more generous in treating them in the North.

Not all patients with MS gain from being given Interferon beta-1a. It is likely to succeed only in those who have the relapsing/remitting form of the disease. A study carried out by the Association for Quality in Health Care showed that 95 per cent of health authorities made no specific provision for MS patients, and more than 60 per cent had no idea how

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

it tends to be less severe so that the progress of the disease is slowed, if not always halted. An account of a study on Interferon beta-1a was published in the *American Annals of Neurology* in December 1997. This demonstrated that the drug, when given subcutaneously, doubled the number of relapse-free patients.

Magnetic resonance scanning (MRI) enables damage caused to the central nervous system by MS to be charted. Before MRI was available doctors prodded patients with pins, stroked them with cotton wool and tested their reflexes and limbs as a subjective means of judging the extent of the disease. With MRI scanning it is possible to obtain objective evidence of the extent of any relapse, and remission, and obtain objective evidence that medication works.

Some patients develop pain around the site of the injection, but this is not severe, and 50 per cent have flu-type symptoms soon after the injection, but this can be relieved by paracetamol.

Those who have MS of the relapsing/remitting type need Interferon beta-1a, and if the public have to be reminded of this annually, so be it.



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His wife sat with him throughout the four hours we had together, presumably as guardian of the family fortunes. She had been somewhat disturbed by my sudden appearance and doubtful of my motives, seeking to protect her children, as she told me. It seemed a shame that she felt so threatened. After all, she had superseded my birth mother in his affections, but perhaps I was an unpleasant reminder of that. I felt very much like the other woman in a sordid affair. I would have liked to talk to him on my own to ask more about the circumstances of my birth. I scoured his face, looking for some familiar feature, perhaps even a gesture, but I saw nothing to tell me that he was my biological father.

He gave me an affectionate squeeze before he left to go through passport control. I felt as if I was taking part in a play, devoid of all emotion. Yet



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THE TIMES

And

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Should children inherit

And the bride wore . . .

Liz Hurley's dress put her in the limelight and turned a top drawer wedding into a knicker drawer affair. Grace Bradberry reports

These days, there are society weddings and there are weddings that say something about society. Saturday's wedding of the filmmaker Henry Dent-Brocklehurst to Lili Maltese, a model, had the rare distinction of being both.

Dent-Brocklehurst, the stepson of Lord Ashcombe, had long been referred to as Britain's most eligible bachelor, with a reported £50 million fortune. The ceremony took place in a small chapel in the grounds of the family home, Sudeley Castle, once the residence of Henry VIII's sixth wife, Catherine Parr. Among the guests was Camilla Parker Bowles, who was making her first public appearance since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

As it turned out, however, the wedding was not so much top drawer as knicker drawer — Liz Hurley's knicker drawer, that is. When you have appeared half-naked at a film premiere, your breasts can't be covered by safety pins, the world's press craning down your cleavage, you may think your best-dressed days are behind you, and that no dress can ever produce such results again. But if so, your name is not Liz Hurley.

Here is a woman whose career was launched on the back of someone else's Big Day — that of her boyfriend, Hugh Grant, the star of *Four*

Weddings and a Funeral, but not the star of the premiere. Yet a film premiere is one thing, an event with no other *raison d'être* than as a publicity free-for-all.

Weddings, on the other hand, are supposed to be about something else — love, commitment, the vanity of the bride. Hurley may have changed all that for good. It has become slowly acceptable for guests to wear white, black, no tights, trouser suits — but baring your knickers is something else altogether.

She managed to keep things in check during the ceremony itself, wearing a demure cream suit. But all along those leopard-print knickers were lurking in the background and, come the evening, they sprang out, ambushing the media ambitions of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Tania Bryer, both of whom had also tried very hard indeed.

So when Lili Maltese goes through the press cuttings for Her Big Day (and being a model she inevitably will), she could be forgiven for feeling a bit miffed as she repeatedly reads the caption "Bride and groom, inset". In media terms, she and her husband turned out to be no more than a support act to the main



Black magic: Raquel Welch upstages her daughter-in-law

event, which was Liz Hurley's debut at Atelier Versace with a few carefully placed outfits, first at the Oscars, and now at this weekend's wedding.

There are precedents for Hurley's behaviour. In 1991, Raquel Welch upstaged her daughter-in-law when she turned up at the wedding late, and in a black dress so little and so low that her breasts were more exposed than Hurley's five years ago. Then, earlier this year, Marie Eleanor Robinson, the wife of the Paymaster General, horrified

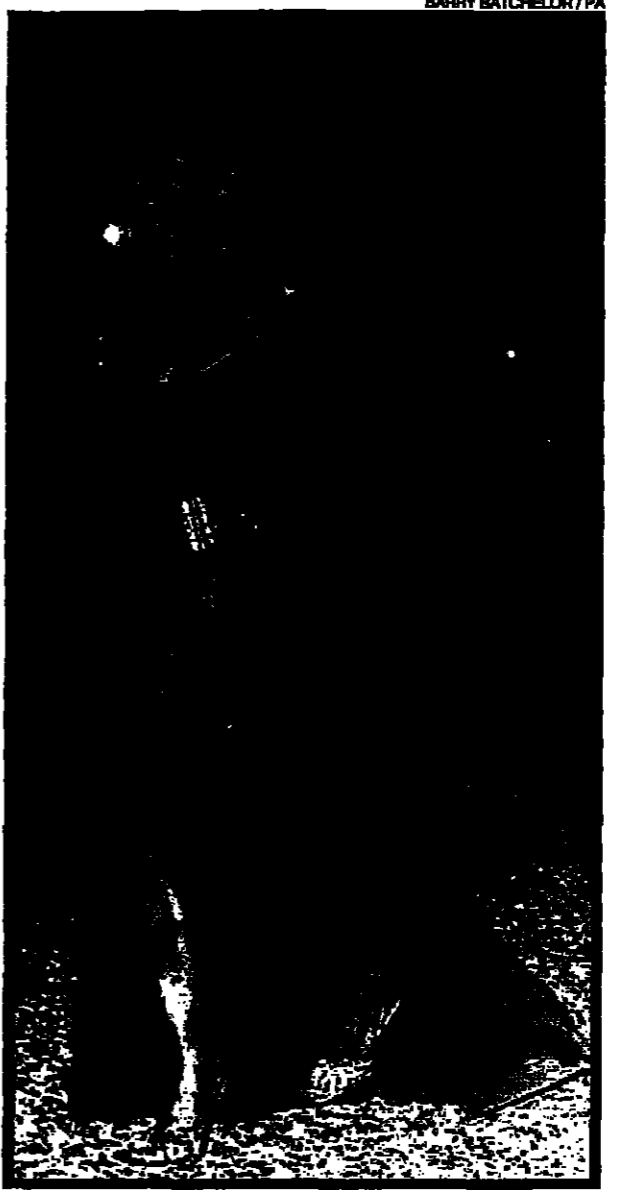
the cream of new Labour when she arrived at the wedding of Yvette Cooper and Ed Balls in a gold lurex suit.

But distressing as these displays were, the reverberations of Liz Hurley's appearance will be far greater, not least because *Hello!* magazine has exclusive rights, so ensuring that no customer of a suburban hairdressing salon will be left in any doubt as to this season's hot wedding look.

So perhaps Hurley did brief Dent-Brocklehurst in advance — she was seen lunching with him last Thursday in the thoroughly Hurley-esque surroundings of Joe's Café on Drayton Avenue. They are old allies in the media war. It was he, after all, who provided her with shelter in the humiliating aftermath of the Divine Brown affair. But would even Dent-Brocklehurst want his bride upstaged by his friend?

Should he and Lili Maltese have any qualms about their wedding day, they need only read the letters of Nancy Mitford to discover that the attire of wedding guests is an old source of disappointment. "The wedding was splendid & I greatly enjoyed it but on the get-ups I never saw worse," she wrote. "I'm sure English women are dowdier than when I was young. The hats were nearly all as though made by somebody who had never heard about flowers but once seen one — huge muffs of horror."

Hurley's dress, one could say, was as though designed by someone who had once heard about modesty, but never met anyone who possessed it. Donatella Versace will be delighted with the publicity.



Versace with two pins: Liz Hurley's slashed dress

Disinheriting children is a new trend among the rich. But for middle-class parents, leaving them comfortable is a priority, says Bill Frost

Should children inherit?

An increasing number of Britain's rich are cutting their children off without a penny. Financial analysts say many have made their own way in the world and expect their sons and daughters to do the same, arguing that the struggle for success is more edifying than a life of idle luxury.

In contrast, middle-class parents continue to structure their lives around providing for their children's future. They scrimp and save to ensure that they leave their offspring a measure of security.

Having made his £250 million fortune the hard way, Paul Sykes, 55, the technology and property developer, is determined that his children should do the same. Before he dies, the former tyre-fitter plans to spend all his money on environmental and wildlife projects.

"I have never found a link between money and happiness, but I have found a link between success and happiness," he says. "You can do ten times more good than leaving money to children who don't know what to do with it."

Peter de Savary, the multi-millionaire who once owned Land's End and John o'Groats, will leave his five daughters a modest amount for "a rainy day". The balance of his £24 million fortune will go to a foundation for underprivileged young people.

"To have life on a plate is debilitating for a young person. They need the challenge of life, the challenge of success or failure," he says.

Colin and Helen Page — middle-class professionals determined that their 12-year-old daughter Freya will have "the best possible start in life" — are outraged that any parent could "cut a child adrift in such fashion".

Their home in Wandsworth, southwest London, is worth £750,000. Having bought it for less than a tenth of that sum, there is obviously a large chunk of equity on offer.

Colin is constantly improving the property — he has just built a swimming pool in the garden. Estate agents regularly send letters begging the Pages to put the house on the market. But they have no intention of selling. The house is for Freya — so, too, are all



Colin and Helen Page want their 14-year-old daughter Freya to have the best possible start in life with no mortgage

her parents' assets and savings. "When I die, I am going to be buried in the garden to make sure she stays here," says Colin, with only the hint of a smile. "I want her to have the least stressful start in life that we can manage — a beautiful house and no mortgage to weigh her down."

The couple, both in their mid-forties, met while in advertising and earning good salaries. Colin is now a house husband and self-employed decorator and interior designer, while Helen still works as a

freelance graphic artist. In their Eighties heyday, the Pages made about £4,000 each month. These are leaner times. "Today, we plough all spare capital into the house," says Colin.

Freya Page, who hopes to become an actress, is as attached to the family home as her parents. Rising property prices do not interest her, but continuity does.

"I cannot imagine leaving my home — I would feel empty inside. How could any parent deprive his or her children of a

good start in life, particularly if they have loads of money? Isn't it much better to pass on security to your children? There is nothing great about being poor when you don't have to be," she says.

Her mother Helen agrees: "You do not bring somebody into the world and when they grow up say 'you are on your own'. A parent gives her child the best start possible. To give the money away to charity suggests you do not trust your children or that you think that they should have to suffer as

you did. What is the point of that? We are here to make the burden lighter. After all, that is what our parents did for us."

Vernon and Beth have sold their house in Twickenham for a "substantial profit" and bought a cottage near Canterbury. The profit, about £150,000, has been invested for their children — two teenage boys and a daughter of 11.

"Beth and I decided that their security was our top priority. We have a portfolio of shares and savings; the kids will also get the cottage when

we are gone," says Vernon, a 49-year-old accountant.

The cottage, on the outskirts of a village in Kent, is perfectly kept. Beth says she would never move and hopes that the children are as devoted to it as their parents. "I find it astonishing that any parent could leave everything to a good cause and not their own flesh and blood," she says. "It is selfish and cold-hearted: the whole point of having a family is to care for them."

Harry, at 17 the couple's eldest son, is embarrassed when his parents talk about what they will leave. However, he is surprised that a growing number of the seriously rich are disinheriting their own.

"Mum and dad have just said that we will all be quite comfortable. I know that if I have a family, I will do exactly the same as my parents. It would be unnatural not to."

Lucy is a single parent busily spending the last of £600,000 left by her father. Her ex-husband — they divorced 12 years ago — still pays her a "reasonable" monthly allowance. "I call it his guilt therapy," says Lucy. "He was not a good partner. At least he is still earning good money."

Now in her late 40s, Lucy admits she has devoted much of the past ten years to spending her inheritance. "I kept the flat in Richmond but sold off the house in Holland Park," she says. Her son, Joey, now 19, is resigned to his mother's profligate behaviour. He works as a motorcycle courier. "Lucy and I get on OK

but sometimes I feel like the parent because she acts like a spoilt child," he says. "I don't know how much money she has left and I certainly do not expect to be left anything... maybe the flat in Richmond, but who can say?"

Has Lucy no thought for the future? "I know it may seem irresponsible but I seem to have no alternative," she says. "There is no need for me to work, so I have to fill my time somehow. Daddy's money meant I never had to find a job and then I married a rich man. I suppose you could say that the money did have a corrupting influence."

"Do I feel guilty spending the money without a thought for Joey's future? But look what wealth did for me... I think I am probably doing him a favour."

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COURT CIRCULAR

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 11: The Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, this afternoon opened the new Rehabilitation Training Unit at Lanesborough House, Belfast, and was received by Mr Colin Anderson (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast).

Dinners

Grill of Air Pilots and Air Navigators
The Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. He was received by Captain Rodney Fulton, Master, Sir Colin Marshall also spoke.

Luncheons

The Earl and Countess of Munster
The Earl and Countess of Munster were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at the Chomology Room, House of Lords, to celebrate the Skeletal and Osteoporosis Research at the University College London Hospitals Bone and Mineral Centre headed by Professor Michael Horton.



This mask, Queen of Hearts, by Joe David from the Nuuc-Chah-Nulth nation, one of Canada's first nations, features in an exhibition of masks at Canada House in Trafalgar Square which the Queen and the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Jean Chrétien, will reopen today.

Birthdays today

Mr Burt Bacharach, composer, 69; Mr Alan Ball, football manager, 53; Sir Dominic Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, 58; Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, paediatrician, 59; Mr M.A. Coates, former chairman, Price Waterhouse, 74; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 82; Miss Susan Hampshire, actress, 56; Mr H.V. Hodson, former Editor, The Sunday Times, 82; Mr Michael Ignatieff, writer, 51; Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws, QC, 48; the Earl of Kimberley, 74; Dr David Kimble, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Malawi, 77; Lord Laing of Dumphryn, 75; Mr Eric Lyaal, former chairman, Pearl Group, 74; Professor C.P. Mayer, economist, 45; Sir Roger Moore, actor, 60; the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, 78; Ms Jenni Murray, broadcaster, 48; Mr Christopher Patten, CH, former Governor of Hong Kong, 54; Miss Rosalind Savill, director, The Wallace Collection, 47; Mr Frederick Smithies, trade unionist, 69; Dr Miriam Stoppard, writer and broadcaster, 61; Miss Deborah Warner, theatre director, 39; Mr Charles Winnifrid, Clerk of Committees, House of Commons, 62; Mr Steve Winwood, rock singer, 50; Sir Paul Wright, diplomat, 83.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Air Force
GROUP CAPTAIN: M A Leakey - MOD. 15.5.98
WING COMMANDER: A D Cameron - RAF Lxbridge. 14.4.98; S J Court - HQ STC. 15.5.98; K G Brackstone - HQ PTC. 4.5.98; M L Codd - RAF Cranwell. 11.5.98; S P Howard - RAF Kinloss. 11.5.98.

Latest wills

Kenneth Albert Mitchell, of Castellau, Rhonda, left estate valued at £3,186,902 net. William Peter Capper, of Cotchester, Co Durham, left estate valued at £1,064,017 net. Jane Bowden Greenwood, of Sandway, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,005,195 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Bell, surgeon, Edinburgh, 1763; Edward Lear, artist and poet, London, 1812; Florence Nightingale, nurse, Florence, 1820; Daniel Gabriel Rossini, poet and painter, founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1828; Jules Massenet, composer, Montaud, France, 1842; Gabriel Fauré, composer, Perriers, Ariège, France, 1845; Tony Hancock, comedy actor, Birmingham, 1924. DEATHS: Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford, statesman, executed, London, 1641; Sir Charles Barry, architect, at his home, revival, London, 1860; Bedrich Smetana, composer, Prague, 1884; Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, man of letters, Fowey, Cornwall, 1944; Erich von Stroheim, actor and film director, Maurepas, France, 1957; John Masfield, poet Laureate 1930-67, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, 1967; John Smith, leader of the Labour Party 1992-94, London, 1994. The General Strike ended, 1926. Alcoholics Anonymous was founded by William Wilson in Akron, Ohio, 1935. The Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1937. The minimum voting age in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18, 1969.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president and honorary life fellow, will attend a reception to announce the successful conclusion of the William Shipley Appeal at the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, at 11.00am, at the Royal Society, 1, White Court, London WC2A 1PH, at which he will host a tea party at Buckingham Palace for volunteers to mark the 40th anniversary of Voluntary Service Overseas, at 4.00pm, and will attend the Sea Trade Awards ceremony dinner at Guildhall at 8.30.

Stowe School

A Commemorative Dinner was held last night at Stowe to celebrate the School's 75th Jubilee and to launch The Stowe School Foundation. Sir Peter Leslie (OS), Chairman of the Foundation, presided. Lord Quinon (OS) proposed a toast to the School to which the Headmaster, Mr Jeremy Nicholls, replied. Miss Anna Kenyon, Senior Prefect, spoke on behalf of the pupils.

The London Institute

The London Institute held its Conference Ceremony at the Cochrane Theatre, Southampton Row, on Friday, May 8, 1998. At the ceremony the Chairman, Mr Julian E. Markham, conferred Honorary Fellowships of the London Institute upon Mr John Hegarty, Mr Bill Moggridge, Mr Ryszard Ozpek and Mr Euan Uglow.

Appointment

His Honour Judge John Bull, QC, DL, Resident Judge of the Crown Court at Guildford, has been appointed the Honorary Recorder of Guildford.

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BIRCH - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, to David, son of Paul and Susan.
BIRCH - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, to David, son of Paul and Susan.
BIRCH - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, to David, son of Paul and Susan.

DEATHS
BIRCH - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, to David, son of Paul and Susan.
BIRCH - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, to David, son of Paul and Susan.
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OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR PATRICK BAYLY

Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Bayly, KBE, CB, DSC and two Bars, Chief of Staff Nato Southern Europe, 1967-70, died on May 1 aged 83. He was born on August 4, 1914.

Patrick Bayly's naval career was unusual in that two of his three DSCs were awarded for his leadership and courage while on dry land. At the outset of the Second World War, the infant art of Combined Operations — amphibious assaults on enemy-held coasts — early recognised the need for specialist troops to manage the complex process of disembarkation, the organisation of beaches and their exits, and to ensure the rapid turn-around of landing craft.



Painful lessons during the ill-fated Dieppe raid of August 1942 led to the better selection and training of personnel and their formation into Royal Navy commandos, who were renowned for their toughness and versatility. Bayly was one of the first beach organisation training officers at HMS Armadillo, a forestry camp on Loch Long in Argyllshire, delivering a course as hard physically as it was mentally.

Promoted to acting lieutenant-commander in July 1943, he arrived at Sfax in North Africa to take charge of "M" Commando as a principal beachmaster for Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. Landing at the extreme south-east tip of the island against light opposition, Bayly got the 51st (Highland) Division ashore in record time. He then returned to Tripoli to prepare for Operation Avalanche, the assault on mainland Italy at Salerno in September.

Described by Churchill as the "most daring we have yet launched", this was a two-corp operation using more than 600 vessels in 16 convoys. The force was attacked from the air the previous day so, with surprise lost, Bayly's commando landed before dawn in the face of German gunfire which had to be suppressed by warships. His memoirs modestly describe

his actions as a principal beachmaster in sorting out the many confusions of the landing in his sector, coolly proceeding from beach to beach and often under fire. "But the enemy's aim was not very good and their 88mm guns not very active."

"M" Commando's final exploit was a beach reconnaissance for the crossing of the Volturno River, 30 miles north of Naples. Paddling a canoe that he had found in the rushes, Bayly personally established that the depths were suitable for tank landing craft. "Some shells plopped around, but not very close."

Shortly afterwards Bayly was appointed as a watch-keeper to the cruiser *Mauritius* to get in some sea time. This was a somewhat inept career appointment, given his skills.

Indeed, noticing Bayly's two DSCs while visiting *Mauritius* during the D-Day campaign, Admiral Ramsay, Chief of Combined Operations, asked him his name. "Not the

Bayly? Good God, what are you doing here?"

The son of an Irish family from Co Tipperary, Patrick Uniacke Bayly joined Dartmouth in 1928 and later saw service on the South Africa and China stations. As second-in-command of the *Cicala*, a flat-bottomed gunboat built in 1915 for use against the Austro-Hungarian Navy on the Danube, but by then based at Canton, he was part of the squadron protecting British shipping against piracy up the Yangtze and Pearl Rivers.

This was an adventurous time for a young man in those twilight years of Empire, and it was made the more so when the Sino-Japanese War came closer with the Japanese landings near Canton in February 1938, and increased aerial bombing. Bayly recorded the effects of the Japanese scorched earth policy: "Canton was fired and bodies with their hands tied behind their backs floating past became a regular feature. The rivers were eventually closed but a retreat to

Legion of Merit by the United States.

Promoted captain in 1954, he served in the Admiralty and was a student at the Imperial Defence College in 1957. He then commanded the destroyer *Cavendish* and the 6th Destroyer Squadron, had two years in America on the staff of the Nato Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, followed by a further two years in Malta as chief of staff to the C-in-C Mediterranean.

In 1963, as a rear-admiral, his qualities of tough-mindedness and humanity made him an ideal Flag Officer Sea Training. In command of the Navy's make-or-buy work-up base for warships at Portland, he was remembered for his robust personality and good judgment of people. He was appointed CB in 1965.

After two years as Admiral Superintendent of the naval college at Greenwich, Bayly was promoted vice-admiral and served as Chief of Allied Staff Southern Europe at the Nato naval headquarters in Malta. He was appointed KBE in 1968, retiring in 1970.

He was next involved in the establishment of the Maritime Trust and was its full-time director from 1971 to 1988. This self-sustaining charity is now the definitive national advisory body for ship restoration, with more than 20 projects to its credit. These range from the celebrated tea clipper *Curry Sark* at Greenwich to smaller vessels such as the 18th Century fishing lugger *Barnabas*, which can be seen at Falmouth. Much of this growth was due to Bayly's drive, persuasiveness and hands-on expertise.

His other interests included the Lake Windermere Steamboat Museum and the Maritime Workshop at Gosport. He was a founding member of the Falklands Islands Appeal and a trustee of the British Korean Veterans Association. In 1988 he attended the International Congress of Maritime Museums and opened the new Sydney Maritime Museum. He was also chairman of the governors of the Royal Naval School at Haslemere for 12 years until 1989, a school attended by his mother, aunt and daughters.

He is survived by his wife Moy, whom he married in 1945, and by their two daughters.

THE REV PHILIP BARRETT

The Rev Philip Barrett, Rector of Compton and Otterbourne, Hampshire, died after a chronic illness on April 22 aged 51. He was born on April 8, 1947.



PHILIP BARRETT was a scholarly parish priest of a kind that is sadly becoming something of a rarity in the Church of England. Blessed with a great capacity for friendship, he combined a meticulous historical scholarship with considerable musical and liturgical gifts. Lately he had pursued a longstanding interest in law by taking an LL.M degree in canon law at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Earlier historical research, in which he had been encouraged by Bishop Eric Kemp, whose pupil he was at Exeter College, Oxford, came to fruition in his fine study of English cathedral life in the 19th century, published in 1993 under the appropriate title *Barchester*: for this he was awarded an Oxford BD.

This study, concentrated on nine cathedrals in the South and West of England, was the product of many years' investigation of capitular records, the personal papers of deans, account books, service sheets and local press-cuttings. The result is a marvellous mosaic of Victorian church life, spiced with many amusing anecdotes, and a sympathetic pastoral understanding of the growth and development of an aspect of church life (now even more important) which many had written off as an anachronistic abuse in the early decades of the 19th century.

The only son of a naval family, Philip Leslie Sibborn Barrett was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, and acquired his early love of church music first as a chorister and then as a counter-tenor lay-clerk at Portsmouth Cathedral. His vocation to the ordained ministry came early, and he went on from Oxford to train for the ministry at Cuddesdon under its then Principal, Robert Runcie.

He served his title at Pershore Abbey — an appropriate curacy for one with an instinctive sympathy for collegiate and cathedral churches — and went on to a brief second

curacy at St Peter's, Bourne-mouth (another church with a notable choral tradition). In 1976 he was appointed Vicar Choral of Hereford Cathedral.

His ten years at Hereford saw his major contribution to cathedral worship, arriving as he did at a moment when the Dean, Norman Rathbone, was anxious to improve the liturgical life of the cathedral. Much of what was achieved was as a result of his lively imagination, his capacity for hard work and his eye for detail. He had a great understanding of the place of music in the liturgy, and his wise advice to many church musicians came out of a rich fund of practical experience, which he put to good use in the design of service-sheets and the organising of cathedral music libraries.

He was a stout defender of, and an ambassador for, the English choral tradition, while his antiquarian bent made him sensitive to the idiosyncracies of the "Hereford use", and gave him a delight in the often quirky origins of cathedral traditions. Those who thought of him as a merely rather serious-minded scholar missed the twinkle in his eye and the dry sense of humour, which made him a well-loved figure in Hereford.

He contributed to the Three Choirs Festival as a member of the Hereford Festival Committee and as a singer in the Festival Chorus, as well as editing the substantial Hereford programme.

His enthusiasm for cricket, French cathedrals and

steam railways complemented his scholarly work, which included contributions to the histories of Winchester and Chichester cathedrals, and two chapters for the forthcoming history of Hereford.

In 1986, when his contract at Hereford finished, he moved back to his native Hampshire as incumbent of Compton and Otterbourne just outside Winchester. There he exercised a traditional and much-appreciated pastoral ministry as well as continuing his scholarly work and assisting from time to time in the cathedral. From his parish base he exercised a wide pastoral and practical ministry to many in the world of cathedral music who frequently turned to him for advice, knowing they would find in him a frank and perceptive critic.

He was generous-hearted, wise and discreet; his raised eyebrow could be the equivalent of a diatribe from others, but his encouragement and support was highly valued. His capacity for mimicry was much appreciated by his friends. In his roles as both bridge-builder and catalyst, and in his willingness to share his fund of expertise — musical, liturgical and historical — he will be greatly missed.

He had suffered from ankylosing spondylitis for many years, which gave him a somewhat stooped appearance. The physical weakness consequent on this chronic illness contributed to his unexpected and early death. He is survived by his mother, Angela.

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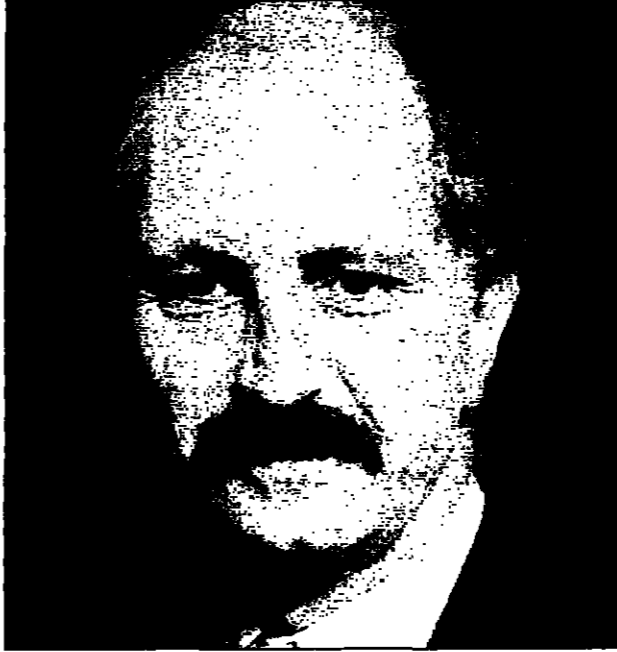
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PETER BEAN

Peter Bean, deputy head of the Foreign Office News Department, died of heart failure on April 30 aged 48. He was born on July 25, 1949.



PETER BEAN was the Foreign Office's most experienced press officer, his work with the media having extended from Thailand to the United States and Whitehall, where he was a spokesman at 10 Downing Street and then deputy head of the Foreign Office's news department. His stock-in-trade was a dry, self-deprecating humour. He could get along with anyone, and maintained his unflappable style even under fire.

In 1991, during his time as foreign affairs spokesman at No 10, the IRA launched a mortar bomb which exploded only a few feet from his office. Unruffled, he continued a phone conversation with a colleague across the street. The colleague took refuge under his desk, but Bean remained seated, ready to take the calls from Fleet Street and the broadcasters.

Peter Lionel Bean served briefly in the Royal Navy as a midshipman before joining the Foreign Office when he was 20. His first posting was to Tripoli, and in 1972 he went to Brussels, where he met his wife Moira, who was also working there. Their romance flourished against the un-

promising background of work on the documentation for Britain's entry into the EEC. They married in 1974.

In 1978, after three years in Amman, Bean returned to London and his first close association with politics as assistant private secretary to the then Minister of State at the FCO, Nicholas Ridley, and after him to Richard Luce. His daughter Andrea was born in 1982. The family moved to Ottawa, where Bean concentrated on commercial work.

His connection with the press began in 1985 with a posting to Bangkok. His skill in presenting British policy in a turbulent region was quickly noticed, and the course of the rest of his career was established. Part of his work took him to refugee camps close to the border with Cambodia, where he monitored conditions and stayed in touch with political leaders in exile. He and his wife came to regard Thailand as a second home, and during their time there

they adopted a second daughter, Suzie. Bean returned to Britain to work in the press office at No 10 in 1989. He understood the needs of journalists working to deadlines, and got on well with them. He had excellent political judgment, and backed this up with meticulous planning. He had a strong nose for a story, enjoyed his work, and always tried to help the media. "Bliss city!" he would exclaim, boyishly, if a photocall with a difficult subject went well.

His Downing Street years included the end of the Thatcher era. He was with the Prime Minister in Paris on the fateful November day in 1990 which was later seen as the critical moment in the drama of her fall. At No 10, first under Bernard Ingham and then, after John Major's arrival, under Gus O'Donnell, Bean worked with colleagues across Whitehall and in Buckingham Palace. That network proved crucial during his last foreign posting, to Washington in 1992 as the Embassy's spokesman.

On his return to London in January last year, he worked in the South-East Asia Department, before returning to media work as head of the Foreign Office newsroom, where he relished the pace of events.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

MARRIAGE OF LADY CYNTHIA CURZON... ON THIS DAY May 12, 1920... One of the outstanding events in the 1920s social calendar was the marriage of Oswald Mosley, MP, to Lady Cynthia Curzon.

almost enveloped in the soft tulle veil and train of mousseline, beautifully embroidered in pale green arum lilies, the stalks of which were sewn in pearls, in harmony with the Grecian wreath of arum lilies worn in the hair. She wore the rope of pearls given to her by her father, and carried a bouquet of arum lilies.

At the reception which followed, the King and Queen, who drove to 1, Carlton House Terrace, were given an enthusiastic welcome by the crowd, and the people also heartily acclaimed the King of the Belgians when he appeared with his Consort.

In Lady Curzon's boudoir, which had been set aside for the Royal party, there was a bowl of magnificent lilies, carnations and lilac. The party at the Royal table, set for 16, included the King and Queen, the King and Queen of the Belgians, the United States Ambassador and Mrs Davis, Earl and Countess Curzon, the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, Eleanor Countess of Suffolk, Mrs Colin Campbell, the Marchioness of Landsdowne, and Sir Oswald and Lady Mosley.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report May 12 1998

Court of Appeal

Extradition documents defective

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another, Ex parte Coughlin
 Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Bloufield
 [Judgment April 30]
 The Home Secretary was entitled to grant authority to proceed with extradition proceedings under section 7(4) of the Extradition Act 1989 in spite of the absence of documents authenticated in accordance with section 26(1) of that Act and the documents were not sealed with the official seal of the Minister of Justice or some other Swiss minister of state.

The magistrate found that authenticated documents were necessary before he was entitled to proceed and granted an adjournment.

By the time the matter came back before the magistrate, the Swiss authorities had supplied a fresh, re-authenticated bundle of documents, and the magistrate made a committal order on the basis of the new bundle.

Mr James Lewis for the applicant, Mr Paul Carlisle, QC, for the Government of Switzerland; Mr James Turner for the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that he had to consider, inter alia:

1 Whether, in the absence of authenticated documents, the Home Secretary was entitled to grant authority to proceed.
 2 Whether on May 10, 1995, the magistrate was right to find authenticated documents were necessary to enable him to proceed.
 3 Whether on June 2, 1995, the magistrate was entitled to commit on documents, namely the authenticated documents, which had not been before the Home Secretary.

On the first issue, his Lordship said that there was no reason why the Home Secretary should not have adopted the course he did. Even if it was necessary for the magistrate to have authenticated documents before him in order to commit, the Home Secretary was entitled to proceed on the basis that the necessary authentication would be forthcoming before the end of the committal process in the magistrate's court.

On the second issue, his Lordship stated that the foundation of the magistrates' jurisdiction was the authority to proceed and it was the magistrates' duty, after hearing representations, to reach a conclusion as to whether or not the offence to which the authority to proceed related was an extradition crime. He was required to commit.

There was nothing in the statute which required the magistrate to reach that state of mind on the basis of information that was before the Home Secretary. Mr Justice Bloufield agreed.

Solicitors: Judge Sykes Frisxo; Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters; Treasury Solicitor.

Eastbourne Town Radio Cary Association v Commissioners of Customs and Excise
 Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Potter
 [Judgment May 7]
 The constitution of an unincorporated association was not decisive as to whether it was to be registered for value-added tax. The question was what in reality the members were getting for their subscriptions.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by the Commissioners for Customs and Excise from a decision of Mr Justice Turner (1996) STC 1459 in favour of Eastbourne Town Radio Cary Association.

Mrs Melanie Hall and Miss Philippa Whittle for the appellants; Mr Joe Smotha for the association.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the association was an unincorporated, non-profit-making association providing a communications network for its members, each of whom independently carried on businesses as a contracting private car hire driver.

Under the general law an unincorporated association was not a legal entity; it had no legal existence apart from the members of which it was composed.

For some years past the association had been registered for VAT. Since August 1994, however, when its constitution was revised, its members had been that it ought not to be.

Whereas before that date it was making taxable supplies to its members, the value of which exceeded the registration threshold, it now said that it no longer did so.

It contended that the sums now paid by its members under its new constitution were not consideration for services supplied but should rather be regarded as the collective funding for the members' own employment of staff and for their obtaining of other facilities on their own account.

On October 20, 1994, the commissioners refused the association's application to deregister under paragraph 13(2) of Schedule 1 to the Value Added Tax Act 1994. The London VAT Tribunal dismissed the association's appeal against that decision. The judge, however, allowed the association's further statutory appeal against the tribunal's decision.

Under the 1994 Act, VAT was chargeable on any supply of goods or services where it was a taxable supply made by a taxable person in the course or furtherance of any business carried on by him: section 4(1).

Reality test for VAT liability

A taxable supply was any form of supply which was done for a consideration (section 5(2)) and which was not exempt (section 4(2)).

A taxable person was one who was required to be registered (section 3(1)), namely, a person the value of whose taxable supply exceeded the registration limit, now £50,000 (paragraph 1 of Schedule 1).

Section 94 of the 1994 Act provided: "(2) ... the following are deemed to be carrying on a business - (a) the provision by a club, association or organisation (or a partnership or other consideration) of the facilities or advantages available to its members..."

Section 46 provided: "(3) The registration under this Act of any such club, association or organisation (namely, one the affairs of which are managed by its members or a committee or committees of its members) may be in the name of the club, association or organisation; and in determining whether goods or services are supplied to or by such a club, association or organisation ... no account shall be taken of any change in its members."

The answer to the present case was not to be found exclusively, or even primarily, in the language used in the association's constitution.

In VAT law it was established that the private law position was not necessarily conclusive on questions about whether a supply was being made or the nature of such supply: see *Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Reed Personnel Services Ltd* ([1995] STC 591).

Still more plainly must be the case where, as here, one's starting point was the statutory fiction that an unincorporated association was for VAT purposes a legal entity separate from its members and capable, therefore, of making supplies to them.

His Lordship would therefore apply the principle formulated by Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane in *Trewby v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* ([1976] 1 WLR 932, 937):

"The correct approach is to see what in reality the member is getting for his money. What is the appropriate description of the services supplied by the taxable person in return for the members' subscription? Once that approach was adopted and one considered the reality of the situation, it seemed perfectly plain that the association was in fact continuing to provide services and supplies as it had always done. And the payments the members were making, however described in the constitution, were properly to be regarded as a subscription or other consideration."

Once one postulated the existence of the association as a separate legal entity it was entirely artificial to regard it not as the supplier but as playing merely an administrative role in the provision of facilities and staff services by the members themselves.

In proposing that the commissioners' appeal did not go so far as to say that by virtue of section 94(2) of the 1994 Act an unincorporated association must necessarily in all cases, save only, of course, where the supplies were exempt, as for example supplies of educational or medical services, be found to have been making taxable supplies to its members.

His Lordship did say, however, that it required more than merely skilful drafting of a constitution to escape the prima facie effect of section 94(2).

If the reality of the case was that an association was providing facilities and advantages for its members in the conventional way, then for VAT purposes it was making taxable supplies. That certainly was the reality here.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS and LORD JUSTICE POTTER agreed.

Solicitors: Brachers, Maidstone; Solicitor: Customs and Excise.

Refusing to give effect to foreign law

Kuwait Airways Corporation v Iraqi Airways Company and Another
 Before Mr Justice Mance
 [Judgment April 23]
 There was no absolute bar, under the principle of non-justiciability, which prevented English courts considering the conduct of a foreign state in its international relations. Such conduct was relevant when deciding whether an English court should, as a matter of public policy, refuse to give effect to a foreign law.

Mr Justice Mance so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division, in deciding in favour of the plaintiffs, Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) that the defendants, Iraqi Airways Company (IAC) had wrongfully interfered with eight Airbus and two Boeing aircraft during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait and passed resolution 313 and 312 proclaiming the integration of Kuwait into Iraq. The plaintiffs' aircraft, which were at Kuwait airport at the time of the invasion, were seized and removed to Iraq. On September 17, there came into effect resolution 369 which purported to transfer to IAC, and to transfer its assets to IAC.

Thereafter, IAC treated the aircraft as its own, incorporating them into its fleet.

In January 1991, six of the KAC aircraft were flown to Iran where they were interned by the Iranian authorities. The four remaining aircraft were partially or wholly destroyed in air raids by the coalition forces on Iraq.

Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC, Mr Joseph Smotha and Mr Christopher Greenwood for the plaintiffs; Mr David Donaldson, QC, for the first defendant; Mr Stephen Nathan, QC, for the second defendant.

MR JUSTICE MANCE said that KAC was not required to overcome the apparent transfer of property of all ten aircraft of IAC by resolution 369. If IAC was the owner of the aircraft, it could not wrongfully have interfered with them by the conduct described.

Under the general rule, a governmental act affecting any private property right would be recognised as valid and effective in England, if the act was valid and effective by the country where the thing was situated. A foreign decree would not be recognised however, if it was contrary to public policy.

In *Oppenheimer v Cattermole* ([1976] AC 249), the House of Lords refused to recognise a Nazi decree depriving a German Jew of his German nationality on the ground that the law constituted a grave infringement of human rights.

After citing the judgment of Lord Wilberforce in *Buttes Gas and Oil Company v Hammer* ([1982] AC 888), his Lordship said that English law also recognised a principle of non-justiciability in respect of transactions in the international field.

It was for that reason that IAC suggested judicial restraint. The matters which KAC raised were in relation to recognition of resolution 369 which involved considerations of transactions between states. In particular, matters arising from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

His Lordship stated that while *Buttes Gas* was authority for a principle of non-justiciability, it was not authority that English courts must invariably attribute to the conduct of a foreign state in its international relations a validity or legitimacy which it might not have. That was particularly true if her Majesty's Government had expressed a view on the point.

The principle of non-justiciability was ultimately flexible and always responsive to a particular situation. It was therefore necessary to consider what was complained of in relation to the state, whether it did or did not raise matters upon which a domestic court could not adjudicate, either because there was no judicial or manageable standards or because of their difficulty or sensitivity and whether or not an affront to comity or other international relations could result from a domestic court addressing such matters.

Taking account of those considerations, his Lordship concluded that the case was justiciable.

On the issue of whether resolution 369 was one which the court could refuse to recognise on the ground of public policy, his Lordship said that the resolution represented a clear contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The case was not a direct parallel to *Oppenheimer v Cattermole*. It was not necessary to bring Iraq's conduct towards KAC within the category of human rights abuses.

Any suggestion that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait it could be viewed as remote or irrelevant to the United Kingdom or its public policy had to be dismissed.

Solicitors: LeBoeuf Lamb Greene & MacRae; Landau & Scanlan.

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No continuous breach of term

North Devon District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others
 Before Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mumery, QC
 [Judgment April 23]
 A mandatory agricultural occupancy condition was breached only when the property was occupied by someone not in agricultural employment. No breach occurred when the property was vacant so that use of the property for short holiday lets during the summer months did not amount to a continuous breach of the condition for the purposes of acquiring a certificate of lawful use.

Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mumery, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when allowing an application by North Devon District Council under section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to quash the Secretary of State for the Environment's decision dated December 16, 1997 whereby, on appeal, he had granted the property owners, Mr and Mrs Dennis Rutenbury, a certificate of lawful use or development under section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as substituted by section 10 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

Mr Peter Wadley for North Devon District Council; Miss Alison Robinson for the secretary of state and for Mr and Mrs Rutenbury.

HIS LORDSHIP said that planning permission had been granted in April 1968 for the erection of two dwellings subject to a condition that they would be occupied by agricultural workers.

In 1975 the dwellings were acquired by Mr and Mrs Rutenbury; the second and third respondents, who lived in one and adapted the other for short-let holiday use between May and September. The property was empty from October to April each year.

The council had refused to grant the owners' application for a certificate of lawful use on the ground that, as there was no breach of the agricultural occupancy condition while the property was vacant, there had been no continuous breach for 10 years within the meaning of sections 17A and 17B of the 1990 Act as inserted by section 4 of the 1991 Act.

On the owners' appeal, the secretary of state granted the certificate, concluding on a balance of probabilities that the pattern of holiday use had taken place to a significant degree and that it indicated a sufficient and continuous breach of the agricultural occupancy condition within section 191(3) terms.

The council applied for the decision to be quashed on the ground that the secretary of state had applied the wrong test in considering whether there had been a material change of use when he should have applied the test under sections 17A and 17B of the 1990 Act, as inserted, whereby the owners had to show that they had continuously failed to comply with the agricultural occupancy condition for a period of ten years.

Rejecting the respondents' contention that occupation was a function of use and that, as the property had not been continuously available for agricultural occupancy there had been a continuous breach of the original planning permission, his Lordship said that, by confusing the question of use with the question of occupancy, the secretary of state had not properly directed his mind to whether the facts demonstrated a continuing breach of the condition throughout each year for the necessary period of 10 years.

Accordingly, the application would be allowed and the case remitted to the secretary of state.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mrs J. George, Barnstaple; Treasury Solicitor.

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Small firms fail to foil computer thieves

BY BRIAN COLLETT

FEW small businesses fit their computers with anti-theft devices despite the huge losses reported. Claims for stolen computers total £200 million a year, says the Association of British Insurers, yet only 11 per cent of small companies questioned in research by Esselte, the office products company, had secured their equipment.

The damage to a company that is the victim of theft is far more than the price of the computers. The survey estimates that five days' downtime in a small company costs, on average, £30,000. Yet, the researchers say, security kits cost only £25 and a company can protect all its equipment for about £350.

Esselte surveyed 100 companies in Britain and 100 each in France, Germany and Sweden. More than half the British companies expected the thefts to increase.

Nigel Yates, Esselte's marketing director, believes that there are four main reasons for their prediction. He said: "First, there are a lot more computers out there at the moment. Secondly, the workforce is moving around more and some people are saying, 'I'm going, so I'll take the computer with me'."

In addition, increasingly popular open-plan offices make it easier to carry a machine out without being challenged, and portable computers, which are soft targets, are now more commonly used.

Global Business Information, a London financial publishing company, lost its computers during a weekend burglary, but managed to foil a second attempt by cabling replacements to desks.

Honey makes money for big-scale bee-keeper

Veronica Heath reports on a rural enterprise with a tourism sideline

William Robson employs a workforce of 60 million in Chain Bridge Honey, of Berwick-upon-Tweed. He has 1,200 beehives sited from the Scottish Borders down to Alnwick in Northumberland, and the bees are the most conscientious productive employees he could wish for.

They have kept him in an expanding business for more than 30 years. He employs his family and 14 full- and part-timers to manage the bees and to market the honey and 60 by-products that they produce. Turnover is now £200,000 a year.

"Bee-keeping is knowledge passed down through the generations," Mr Robson said. "My father only kept bees as a hobby, but they have provided me and my family with a business. When I was young, I noticed that there were small beekeepers here making an industry out of their hives and I knew that this was a good area for maintaining healthy strains of bees."

Borders grassland is full of wild white clover, with heather near by on the Lammermuir and Black Heddon Hills. There are plenty of sheltered places within a 30-mile radius of Chain Bridge's honey farm for winter quarters for the bees, with a profusion of pollen, alder and wallflowers. The perimeters of the villages on the Scottish



William Robson markets honey and 60 by-products from his bees

borders have good spring flowers, blossom and cherries, all essential for keeping the Robsons' workforce productive.

"There are more than 150 main apiarists in business up and down Britain," Mr Robson said. "About ten of us are big producers. My nearest competitor is in Durham, to the south, and Perthshire, to the north. We are upgrading our machinery to cope with an increase to 2,000 hives this year, a 60 per cent increase in output."

Expansion has come virtually without grants. Mr Robson said:

"We have only ever had one of £1,000 in 1982 from Northumberland County Council to buy a filling machine. It is still in use. The bees meet our costs and will finance the new projects we have this season — a visitor centre and a farm transport museum, which is housed in the original honey house."

Mr and Mrs Robson's son works in the business, and their daughter, who is studying business management, will join them also.

The bees swarm in spring and the hives are taken to high ground in early July. "That entails 50 journeys with the lorry," Mr Robson said. "Always at night, to keep them cool." The bees stay on the heather moors until September, and the hives are back at the farm by October.

"During the winter, we feed them with sugar," Mr Robson said. "Bees also have to be protected against mite attacks and disease. A killer disease called Varroa has come over from South-East Asia and has already devastated colonies in Devon. It could be a disaster for bee-keepers in Britain because the disease can wipe out a small concern or a large one."

Honey makes money, not just from the product spread on bread, but also from polish, medicines, cosmetics, mustard and candles. Mrs Robson makes night lights, floating flower candles, moulded animal candles and a variety of rolled candles from beeswax, all of which sell well. Cosmetics made from natural honey products are also good sellers, as are hand creams and nourishing creams.

Chain Bridge Honey is on 01289 386362

Mediterranean trio top the European list for late payment

BY RODNEY HOBSON

MEDITERRANEAN hotspots are also blackspots — when it comes to late payment. This year's European survey by Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm, shows that Spain, Italy and Portugal continue to top the list of slow payers while Scandinavians are quickest to settle up.

However, a report by Intrum Justitia, the debt collection group, accuses British companies not only of being slow payers but also of deliberately paying late.

The reports coincide with the European Commission adopting a proposal to combat late payment and with the progress through the House of Commons of a Bill giving British companies a right to interest on late payments.

The EU measures include a right to interest equal to at least the European Central Bank repo rate plus 8 per cent and full compensation from late payers for any harm a supplier suffers from having to wait. The EU measures also speed up procedures for collecting undisputed debt and simplify procedures for small debts that are in dispute.

The European Commission believes that retention-of-title clauses, by which a business retains a right to reclaim goods not paid for, should be simplified and harmonised and that governments and public authorities should be subject to stricter rules.

A quarter of small and medium-sized businesses in Spain, Italy and Portugal have to wait between 90 and 119 days for settlement of bills, according to Grant Thornton.

Andrew Godfrey, of Grant Thornton, said: "Countries where settlement terms are slow seem to accept the situation. In Spain, for example, 29 per cent of business owners claim there has been an improvement in the promptness of payments in the past 12 months, yet average payment terms have stayed above 90 days for the past three years."

In contrast, the average payment period is 27 days in Finland and 32 in Denmark and Norway. Poland also does well, at 31.

Mr Godfrey says: "National characteristics do seem to come into force. The Mediterranean countries seem to take a *mañana* attitude to the payment of bills while Scandinavian efficiency appears to ensure that invoices are paid promptly and filed away."

"As far as internal trade is concerned, this may not be a problem. However, when companies begin trading across national borders, it becomes an issue that needs to be addressed."

Business Strategies, the consultancy that did the survey for Grant Thornton, obtained responses from 6,000 small and medium-sized businesses in 20 countries. It found that nearly half exported, mainly from one EU country to another.

Most UK companies received payment within 30 to 59 days. There was an encouraging decrease, from 30 per cent last year to 24 per cent this year, in firms saying that they normally had to wait longer than 60 days.

Intrum Justitia says that more than half of invoices in the UK are paid late and that only Portugal and the Irish Republic have a worse record. Of late payments in the UK, more than 50 per cent are reckoned to be deliberate.

Intrum says that small companies have to wait 50 per cent longer than large companies for their money and that they suffer more in terms of cashflow, restricted growth and the threat of bankruptcy.

Closures of small businesses in England and Wales are at the lowest since late 1995, Barclays Bank says. Nearly 113,000 closed in the first quarter of 1998, down 7.6 per cent on last year's first quarter. Start-ups rose 3 per cent, to 131,000.

Smaller insolvency practitioners are threatened by proposed reforms of the profession, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants says in response to a Department of Trade and Industry consultative document.

Trainers who find their budgets

cut can get advice from *Training on a Shoestring*, by Kaye Thorne and Alex Machray, published by Kogan Page at £16.99.

Office Angels, the recruitment consultancy, has started seminars for human resources professionals on *feng shui*, the Chinese art of arranging rooms to achieve calm and efficiency. Sarah Shurety, the founder of the Feng Shui Company, said that 40 per

cent of consultations were with businesses, up from 15 per cent four years ago.

Proposals for the valuation of fixed assets will needlessly add to the administrative costs of small businesses that will find themselves paying increased professional fees, according to Kingston Smith, the chartered accountancy firm. The draft proposals, known as FRED 17, have been drawn up

by the Accounting Standards Board. Adrian Houston, a partner in Kingston Smith, said that the ASB had "a habit of complicating the accounting rules for smaller companies."

A free telephone service to assess insurance needs of businesses and provide tailored cover has been introduced by Lloyds TSB Bank. Lloyds: 0990-882 211; TSB: 0990-403 000.

The effectiveness of the New Deal in creating real jobs will be among the topics for debate at the national conference of the British Chambers of Commerce to be held in Birmingham on June 16 and 17.

Cross-border networks have been proposed by the European Union to link potential buyers and sellers of small businesses. They are among improvements in legal, tax and financing arrangements being considered by the EU to make transfers of ownership less complicated.



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THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



BUSINESS

Body Shop aims to massage away City concerns
PAGE 33



ARTS

When Utrecht was painting's centre of the sensual
PAGES 37-39



LAW

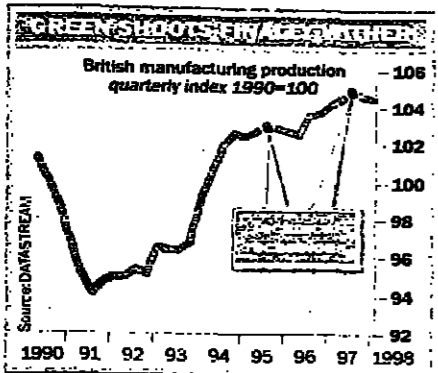
Lawyers carve out a role for themselves in government
PAGES 41-49

WHO WILL HODDLE TAKE TO FRANCE?
SPORT
50-56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MAY 12 1998

Pound pushes manufacturing into recession



By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MANUFACTURING output fell for the second consecutive quarter, officially confirming that the sector is now mired in recession. Quarterly output showed a fall of 0.1 per cent on the previous three months after a decline of 0.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1997. A two quarter fall in output is the technical definition of a recession employed by economists.

Analysts blamed the high pound and said that despite the recent slide in the value of the currency, it remained at levels that would continue to damage exporters.

Further evidence that the slowdown is beginning to spread to other parts of the economy emerged in the latest British Retail Consortium survey of high street sales. The value of like-for-like sales for the three months to April 30 increased by 2.95 per cent over the same period last year — well below the peak levels seen during the middle of last year. Sales in April rose by a more robust 5.7 per cent but the BRC said this reflected the timing of Easter this year and followed an exceptionally weak March.

Nervousness about the economic outlook is reaching institutional investors, with the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey of fund managers revealing they have become net

buyers of commercial property for the first time in two years. Trevor Cheatham, of Merrill Lynch, said this reflected a belief that the economic cycle is turning downwards with investors switching into gilts.

The signs of a downturn failed to dent stock market confidence as the FTSE 100 tracked Wall Street higher. The FTSE closed up 58.5 at 6,028.3 as the Dow Jones recorded a 100-point gain on the back of merger mania. The pound, however, closed almost unchanged against the mark at DM2.8964, and fell half a cent to \$1.6304.

The Office for National Statistics said the monthly measure of manufacturing output in March was flat, leaving the annual rate of

growth at 0.3 per cent. Overall industrial production, however, unexpectedly showed a monthly rise of 0.7 per cent, taking the annual rate to 1.1 per cent. Analysts said the rise in industrial output, largely due to erratics, could result in an upward revision to the first quarter GDP figures although it is unlikely to be sufficient to influence the interest rate debate.

Separate data published yesterday showed that the strong pound is keeping a lid on factory-gate inflationary pressures. Core output prices, which exclude food, drink and tobacco, rose by 0.2 per cent, the lowest figure since 1967. Input prices fell 0.9 per cent, a year-on-year decline of 9 per cent.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100	6028.3 (+58.5)
Nikkei	15381.90 (+232.90)
Dow Jones	9182.55 (+87.40)*
S&P Composite	1114.35 (+8.21)*

US YIELD

Federal Funds	5% (57.4)
Long Bond	101% (102.4)
Yield	6.02% (5.98%)

LONDON MARKET

3-mth Interbank	7.7% (7.5)
Libor long gr	108% (108.4)
future (Jun)	108% (108.4)

STERLING

New York	1.6295* (1.6305)
London	1.6308 (1.6305)
DM	2.8964 (2.8964)
FF	9.7117 (9.7077)
SFr	2.4188 (2.4176)
Yen	215.25 (217.35)
£ Index	102.9 (103.0)

ASIA

London	1.7775* (1.7702)
FF	5.9600* (5.9580)
SFr	1.4880* (1.4800)
Yen	122.75* (122.75)
£ Index	109.5 (109.3)

Tokyo close Yen 132.53

COMMODITIES

Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$14.95 (\$14.75)
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EURO

London close	€301.05 (\$300.05)
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* denotes midday trading price

SBC Com agrees \$71bn deal for Ameritech

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

IN THE world's second biggest takeover, SBC Communications, a Texas phone company, yesterday made an agreed offer for Ameritech worth \$71 billion (£43.5 billion) in stock and assumed debt, creating America's largest phone business.

The new group will have a strong presence in Europe, in addition to its dominance of the US local call market and a share of the international call market. Ameritech, based in Chicago, is the biggest outside investor in the European telecommunications market with \$7.5 billion in assets.

Ameritech has agreed not to consider any other offers, narrowing yet further the pool of US partners available to BT. A mutual break-up fee of \$1.2 billion has been written into takeover documents.

SBC-Ameritech will have a market capitalisation of \$140 billion, overshadowing AT&T's \$95 billion and WorldCom MCI's \$75 billion. SBC is paying \$62 billion in stock and will assume \$9 billion in debts from Ameritech. SBC paid a 27 per cent premium over last Friday's closing share price.

The takeover is likely to face prolonged regulatory scrutiny. Ed Whitacre, SBC chief executive, said he expected "close scrutiny but ultimate approval. We recognise that we need the support of regulators for this to be approved."

Since the passing of a new Telecommunications Act that eased regulations two years ago, US phone companies have begun a merger wave that has yet to run its course.

The SBC-Ameritech deal raises greater competition issues than the \$40 billion takeover of MCI by WorldCom, two long-distance carriers. SBC is the dominant local carrier in the American south-west and other areas. The only comparable deal is the \$25 billion merger of Nynex and Bell Atlantic two years ago,



Notebaert: no job so far



Under scrutiny: Ed Whitacre, the SBC chief executive, said regulators are likely to take a long look at the deal, but he expects it to be approved

Quick profit for Thomson fans

By DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Thomson Travel Group jumped to a 14 per cent premium on their stock market debut yesterday, providing an instant windfall to the private investors who bought shares.

The price rose to 211p from its 170p flotation level, worth an extra £120 to those who received £300 worth of shares. It later fell back to close at 193.5p, a paper profit of almost £69 per investor.

Some 573,000 private shareholders each received the minimum 294 shares after the retail allocation was extended from 10 per cent of the shares to almost 17 per cent.

Responding to criticism about the way it handled the applications, the group said anyone who registered for an

Courtaulds talks to new suitor

By CARL MORTSHED

COURTAULDS, the chemicals group that last month agreed to a £1.8 billion cash bid from Akzo Nobel, is in talks with a unnamed third party, which could lead to a higher offer.

Wasserstein Perella, the US investment bank, is acting on behalf of a consortium, believed to include a leading US coatings manufacturer such as PPG, or Sherwin-Williams, plus a venture capitalist.

The disclosure was made as Akzo Nobel published a document outlining its 450p-a-share offer. Courtaulds shares rose 25p to 464p yesterday. Courtaulds continues to recommend the offer from Akzo Nobel.

Commentary, page 31

Ulster aims for US investment

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A MASSIVE effort to sell Northern Ireland as a business centre to the Americans will be launched later this year. A roadshow targeting big cities will feature leading business people and could take along Gerry Adams and David Trimble as the Province tries to capitalise on interest and goodwill generated by the peace process.

Details of the initiative will be unveiled by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, today when he outlines an aid package for Ulster. The Government and Northern Ireland industrial development officials believe a large amount of inward investment can be attracted from the US. They have been encouraged by interest from

Seagram close to buying PolyGram

By CHRIS AYRES

SEAGRAM, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group whose takeover talks with EMI collapsed last week, is thought to be close to buying PolyGram, the world's largest record company, for \$10 billion (£6 billion).

It is also believed that Alain Levy, the head of PolyGram, is considering a management buyout. Mr Levy has overseen investment of more than \$1.5 billion in PolyGram's music and film operations over the past seven years.

Many analysts believe that the announcement last week by Philips, the Dutch electronics group, that it was reviewing its 75 per cent stake in PolyGram helped to end EMI's talks with Seagram.

However, it is known that Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman of EMI, failed to agree a price with Seagram. He thought negotiations should start at 700p a share, while Seagram would not pay more than 600p. EMI shares fell 38p to 573p.

Commentary, page 31

Sumitomo to pay £97m over copper scandal

By RICHARD MILES

SUMITOMO CORPORATION of Japan has agreed to pay \$158 million (£97 million) to US and British regulators in connection with a \$2.6 billion copper fraud by Yasuo Hamanaka, its former employee.

Without admitting any of the allegations stemming from the Hamanaka scandal, Sumitomo said

yesterday it would pay £5 million to the Financial Services Authority, the UK's leading financial watchdog.

However, the bulk of the settlement goes to the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which will pocket \$125 million. A further \$25 million has been set aside to meet claims from US private parties. These can come from anyone who lost out because Sumitomo pushed

copper to an artificially high price — even plumbiers who paid too much for copper pipes.

In light of yesterday's agreement, the FSA said it had decided that "no purpose would be served by further consideration of possible use of enforcement powers against Sumitomo in relation to Hamanaka. The FSA recognises that Sumitomo has given prompt, valuable and extensive

co-operation following Hamanaka's confession in June 1996."

Other British regulators — the Securities and Futures Authority and the London Metal Exchange — are pursuing inquiries into a number of UK-based firms embroiled in the scandal.

Hamanaka, formerly head of Sumitomo's non-ferrous metals department, was jailed for eight years

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Fairbriar back to a dividend

Fairbriar, the property developer, is paying its first dividend in six years. The company, which last year came out of administrative receivership, made 1997 pre-tax profits of £9.5 million (£3.3 million). Earnings per share were 31.3p (9p). There is a 0.5p dividend for the year.

Holiday deal

Signature Vacations, Canadian subsidiary of First Choice, is paying £1.25 million for the Royal Vacations arm of Royal Aviation, a Canadian airline, to form Quebec's second-largest tour operator.

DCC ahead

DCC, the Irish industrial investment company, saw adjusted earnings rise 21.1 per cent to Ir£35.77 million (£30.7 million), in the year to March 31. A Ir£0.89p final dividend makes Ir9.6p, up a fifth.

VW order

Volkswagen of South Africa is to export 68,000 Golfs to the UK under a £611 million contract with VW of Germany, creating 1,000 jobs near Port Elizabeth.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.67	2.49
Austria Sch	21.44	18.76
Belgium Fr	63.13	58.17
Canada \$	2.405	2.278
Cyprus Cyp£	0.359	0.327
Denmark Kr	11.66	10.77
Finland Mk	6.38	5.83
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.07	2.83
Greece Dr	13.50	12.29
Hong Kong \$	14.49	13.49
Iceland	7.29	7.09
Ireland P	1.21	1.12
Israel Sh	0.36	0.33
Italy Lira	3041	2804
Japan Yen	231.29	214.06
Malaysia	0.675	0.616
Netherlands Gld	3.485	3.171
New Zealand \$	3.17	2.95
Norway Kr	12.77	11.58
Portugal Esc	310.08	286.05
S Africa Rd	8.07	8.01
Spain Ptas	208.27	205.48
Sweden Kr	13.29	12.19
Switzerland Fr	2.56	2.26
Turkey Lira	414.065	394.217
USA \$	1.740	1.597

Microsoft braced for lawsuit assault from US regulators

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE US Justice Department and a dozen states are expected to file a broad anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft this week. The legal action is set to affect the entire computer industry that depends on Microsoft's operating systems. The separate suits by the government department and the state attorneys-general are set to be filed by Friday, the day that Microsoft plans to

release Windows 98, the new version of its operating system that runs on 90 per cent of all personal computers. Joel Klein, the chief trust-buster at the Justice Department, signalled that he was prepared to go ahead with the suit and did not fear industry-wide ramifications. He said: "Microsoft, like any corporation, would benefit from strong domestic competition. I will not let complexity deter me from engagement." The Justice Department has

set itself a Friday deadline because it fears that the release of Windows 98 to computer manufacturers will further perpetuate Microsoft's illegal market dominance. Windows 98 will be available in shops from June 25. The Justice Department went to court against Microsoft last December to force it to separate its Internet browser software from its Windows 95 operating system. Windows 98 will take the integration of operating sys-

tems and browsers a step further. Regulators say Microsoft is trying to leverage its operating system monopoly to gain dominance in the browser market. A lawsuit could be averted by a last-minute settlement, but analysts said this was very unlikely. Microsoft officials are continuing their talks this week after Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, made a personal appeal to Mr Klein last week. Only a severe

climdbow by Mr Gates is likely to sway Mr Klein. The Justice Department is preparing a case under the 1934 Sherman Act, which prohibits companies with legal monopolies from using their market influence solely to inhibit competition. A spokesman for the states said the attorneys-general would closely co-operate with the Justice Department and share evidence.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 20

MMC finds underwriting fee monopoly

BY CARL MORTISHED

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has found a complex monopoly in the system of fixed underwriting fees used in the City in rights issues of shares.

The MMC has written to City institutions outlining potential public interest issues and proposing possible remedial action should the Commission find that the system of fixed underwriting fees is against the public interest.

The suggested remedies include making mandatory the tendering of sub-underwriting, requiring that lead underwriters inform companies of the "fair value" of the underwriting and forcing investment banks to tell their clients what they charge specifically for underwriting and for financial advice.

The MMC's finding of a complex monopoly is based on an analysis of share issues between 1995 and 1997 showing that at least a quarter of issues were underwritten by a group in a way that restricted competition.

The MMC is due to report its findings in November and will be conducting hearings with interested parties over the next few weeks.

Commentary, page 31



Mira Makar, chief executive of the Triad software consultancy, celebrated a 148 per cent increase in profits to £6.6 million in the past year on sales up 70 per cent. Earnings rose 145 per cent to 17.78p and the total dividend doubles from 3p to 6p

Virgin Cola launches in US

RICHARD BRANSON will today unveil the launch of Virgin Cola in North America (Chris Ayres writes).

The launch, at a cost of £18 million, is going ahead even though the soft drink has managed to gain a mere 5 per cent share of the UK market over the past three years. Mr Branson founded the Virgin

Cola Company in November 1994 as a joint venture between Canada's Cott Corporation and Virgin Retail. The drink was originally sold only in Tesco, the Co-op, and Iceland. Distribution has since been expanded.

According to research by Mintel, Coca-Cola currently sells about 690 million litres of

its drink in the UK, giving it 24 per cent of the non-diet fizzy soft drinks market.

In contrast, Virgin sells only about 144 million litres. Competition in the market is intense, with both Pepsi and supermarket own-brand colas aggressively increasing their market share over the past three years.

Cinven and CVC win £1bn KNP

By ROBERT COLE CITY CORRESPONDENT

CINVEN and CVC Capital Partners, two venture capitalists, have won the keenly contested race to win control of KNP, the Dutch packaging company. Among the unsuccessful bidders was David S Smith, the British paper and packaging group.

The purchase price tops £1 billion, one of the largest deals Cinven has been involved in. Cinven and CVC, advised by Barclays Capital, is backing the company's management team to buy the business out from its current owner, which is also called KNP.

It is thought that the deal will be refinanced, wholly or partly, by the issue of a high-yielding bond. The bonds — a variety of what used to be called junk bonds — are becoming increasingly fashionable as a way to raise money for acquisitions.

The packaging part of KNP will be renamed Kappa Packaging. The purchase price is 13.5 times Kappa's operating profits, and annual turnover totalled £557 million.

Kappa supplies materials for the production of, and makes, corrugated cardboard. It is based in Naarden, in The Netherlands, and employs 8,000 people.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Baker Hughes and Western Atlas merge

BAKER HUGHES and Western Atlas have agreed a \$5.5 billion (£3.4 billion) merger, creating a new oilfield technology and services powerhouse. The combined company, which will retain the Baker Hughes name, is expected to have 1998 sales of approximately \$6.5 billion and 36,000 employees throughout the world. The headquarters will be in Houston, Texas. The companies expect to achieve annualised savings of \$15 million.

Max Lukens, currently chairman, president and chief executive officer of Baker Hughes will be chairman and chief executive of the combined company. John Russell, Western Atlas president and chief executive, will be president.

Klesch buys ABI assets

A FUND run by Gary Klesch, the distressed debt trader, has bought the assets of ABI Leisure, the Yorkshire-based caravan and leisure homes group, which is in receivership. This is the latest in a series of acquisitions by Klesch Capital Partner, which recently bought the Knickerbox chain when it collapsed. The receivers also sold ABI's Auto-Trail operation to Caravans International of Italy.

Pearson eyes Simon

PEARSON, the media company, yesterday confirmed that it is considering a bid for Simon & Schuster, the general publishing division of Viacom, the US media group. The sale is expected to raise at least \$3.5 billion (£2.15 billion). Pearson, owner of Penguin, is expected to submit its bid this week. Competition from venture capital funds is expected. If Pearson wins, it will become one of the world's main general publishers.

Minmet quest goes on

MINMET, the Irish exploration company, has been granted a one-year extension to its licence to search for gold and silver in Devon by the Crown Estate Commissioners. The original licence agreed an extension could be granted if there was positive progress. A Minmet subsidiary, Credimon Minerals, is exploring 500 sq km, and the results of a drilling programme, begun in March, are expected shortly.

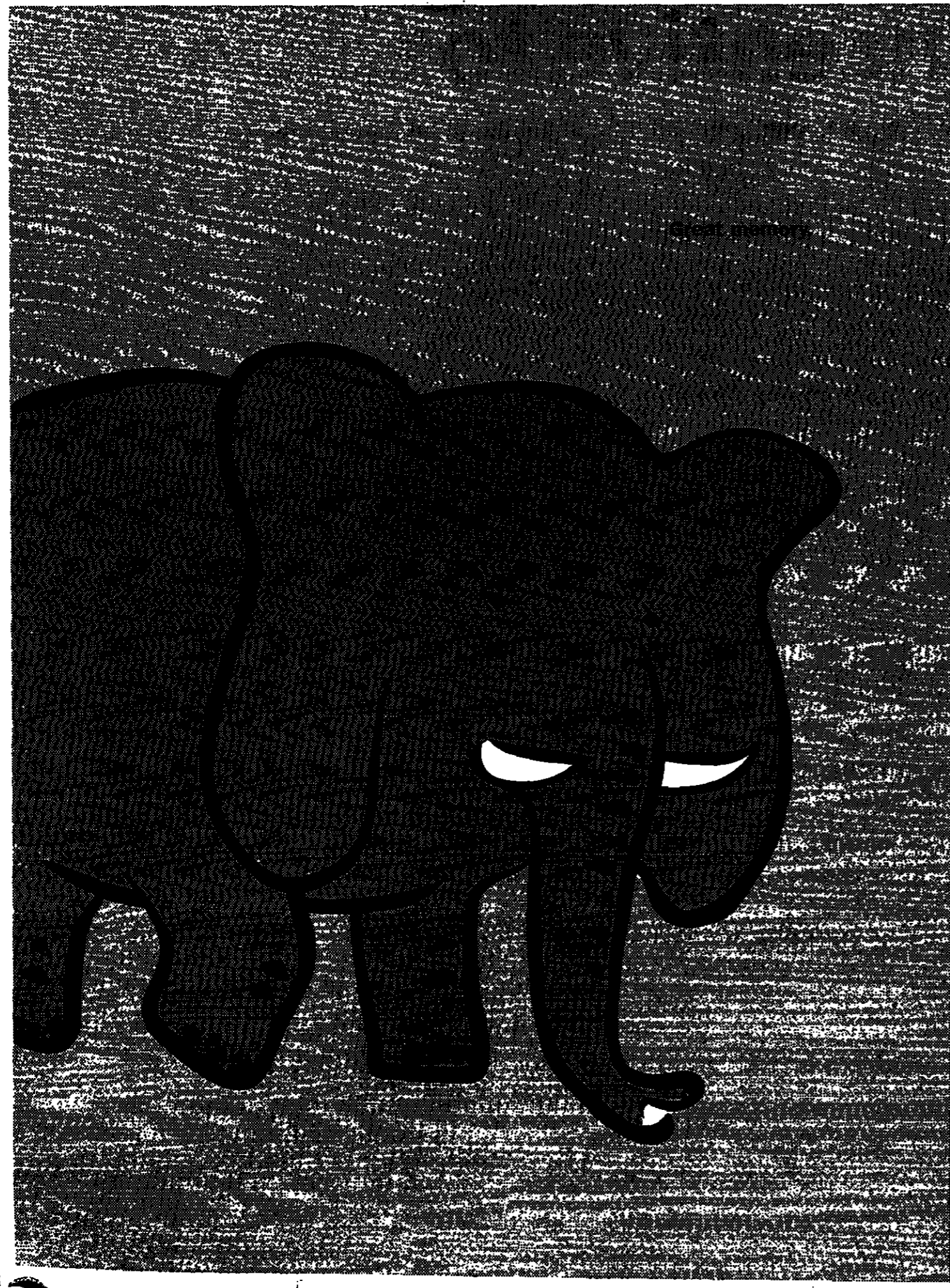
Senior buys in Brazil

SENIOR ENGINEERING has conditionally agreed to acquire three companies in São Paulo, Brazil, for about £12 million. They are Delatarm, Tecne and Telex, which had sales of £11.8 million, generating £23 million of pre-tax profits. The net asset value is about £3 million. Delatarm and Telex make flexible automotive exhaust decouplers, while Tecne makes expansion joints and flexible metallic hoses.

Hitachi Credit up 39%

HITACHI CREDIT, which is the UK finance arm of the Japanese trading company and was floated on the London stock market last year, lifted pre-tax profits 39 per cent to £7.8 million in the year to March 31. The company, whose retail and business finance operations trade as Nova, is to pay a 3.85p final dividend on July 23, taking the first year's total dividend to 5.55p. The shares rose 7½p to 227½p, a new high.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20



RICOH
Image Communication

Same here.

Aficio by RICOH

To tell the truth, elephants don't really have great memories. It's a myth. But if it's memory you want, you want the Aficio digital. Although we wouldn't recommend you try to ride or feed it peanuts, but it can perform amazing tricks of its own. For instance, Aficio can scan a set of documents and store them in its memory, then produce complete sets, one at a time, leaving you to remove your originals. You don't even have to wait for every page of every set to be completed. Simply grab your originals and let Aficio finish the job for you. You can also forget about those slow noisy sorting trays, because Aficio's sorting is digitally controlled. In fact, all you do have to remember is our phone number. You may even want to make that a trunk call.

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THE TIMES

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Digital to be fully a January.

Hambros sells insurance servi

Andrews Skyes soa on Cox purchase

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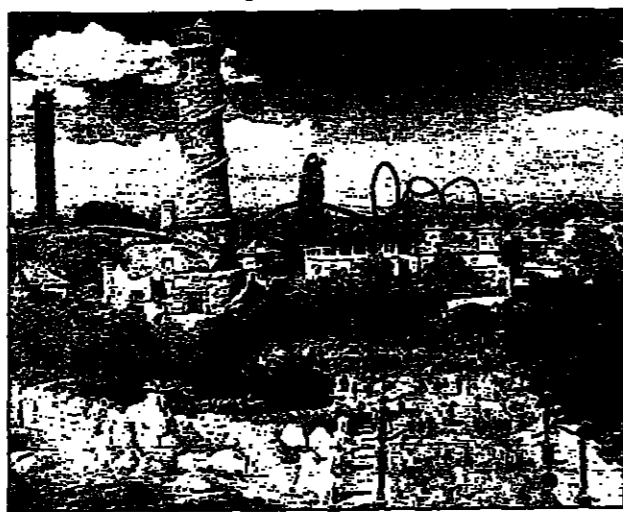
STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Spree on Wall Street spurs City's investors

CITY investors drew encouragement from Wall Street, where investors embarked on another huge buying spree...



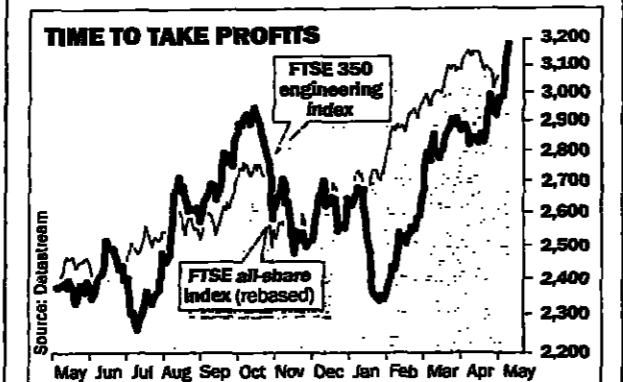
Universal City, Florida, a joint venture involving Rank has failed to excite on a broker's visit to the leisure site

wort Benson urging clients to "sell". It follows a visit by the broker to Universal City, Florida...

Enterprise Oil responded to a "buy" recommendation from Panmure Gordon by rising 23p to 566p...

end of the range, after being oversubscribed three times by private investors and six times by institutions...

Ambitious Pub Company launch on the AIM on Friday, with the price holding steady at 265p...



BRITAIN'S engineers have made the most of sterling's recent decline against the mark...

sterling may start to make up some of the lost ground against other European currencies...

Jefferson Smurfit rose 16p to 240p. Its 46.5 per cent owned US associate is merging with Stone Containers...

Rolls-Royce accelerated 9.5p to 304.5p after Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, increased its target price from 300p to 340p...

Safeway the firm 2.4p to 370.5p before half-year results tomorrow. The company has quashed reports that it is about to announce an agreed merger with Asda...

WALL STREET: US blue chips roared higher at midday as investors rushed to buy up shares after a flurry of mega-mergers and amid hope of more to come...

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 9152.55 (+97.40) S&P Composite 1114.35 (+6.21)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 15381.00 (+232.50) Hang Seng 10096.37 (+36.99)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1182.35 (+18.37) Sydney: ASX 2799.8 (+17.1)

Frankfurt: DAX 5341.69 (+84.11) Zurich: SMI 1592.20 (+25.80)

Singapore: Straits 1059.00 (+10.00) Brussels: General 18534.15 (+299.67)

Paris: CAC 40 4917.24 (+110.88) London: FTSE 100 3920.3 (+28.3)

FTSE 250 2772.4 (+31.3) FTSE 350 2913.8 (+25.9)

FTSE Europe 100 2838.66 (+44.53) FTSE All-Share 454.40 (+2.22)

FTSE Non-Financials 289.40 (+2.77) FTSE Fixed Interest 141.36 (+0.01)

FTSE Govt Securities 105.42 (+0.83) FTSE Dividends 66.69

SEAD Volume 858.68m US\$ 1.6204 (+0.0061) German Mark 2.8964 (+0.0014)

Schweitzer 102.9 (+0.4) Bank of England official close (approx) ECU 1.4753

ESDP 1.2165 RPI 160.8 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1997-1998 RPIX 158.9 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1997-1998

RECENT ISSUES

AB Airlines 97.5 ARM Hedges (575) 795 - 17%

Aberdeen Crmble C 102 + 2% Ambitious Pub Co 265

Asda 61 BTR Red Prt B 37%

Captain OM Wans (4) 5 Close Bros AIM VCT 100

Desire Petroleum 164 + 3% Do Warrants GRE Red Prt B 20

JWE Telecom 124.5 Leasing Africa 92% - 1%

Murray VCT 3 (100) 97% Transport Dev B 36

RIGHTS ISSUES

Avocet Mining n/p (60) 1% Freepart Leds n/p (25) 4%

Guinness Pl n/p (20) 11% Magnum Pwr n/p (12) 4%

Memory Pl n/p (20) 12% Mon Oil & Gas n/p (55) 7%

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER: JBA Heds 617p (-90p) Druce 315p (-27p)

Deputy 152p (-13p) HT Enter 505p (-38p)

Total Sys 137p (-10p) Johnston 325p (+20p)

Eurodis Elect 183p (-11p) Charter 740p (-37p)

Dudley Jenkins 400p (+20p) DCS Grp 555p (+27p)

Continental 670p (+20p) Cable Wireless 677p (+33p)

Royalblue 330p (+15p) Orange 455p (+20p)

Utd Biscuits 273p (+10p) FALLS: EMI 535p (-38p)

Clyde Blowers 175p (-10p) Airtours 510p (-21p)

SDX Bc Sys 341p (-12p) GUS 861p (-18p)

Provident 970p (-92p) Northern Rock 590p (-12p)

TEMPUS Ready for promotion

YOUNG & RUBICAM'S award-winning work in launching the Ford Puma - which involves splicing footage of the late Steve McQueen to make him look like he is driving the car - may have worried Martin Sorrell...

in March, prompted a re-rating of the shares, which now stand at 170p. Put Saatchi shares on a Y&R multiple and you can see them sailing well past 200p...

Smurfit JEFFERSON SMURFIT'S decision to merge its US associate with Stone Container Corporation provides a solution to a couple of pressing problems...

billion - an awful lot of cardboard boxes. It has already identified annual "synergies" of \$350 million. The merged company has nearly two-thirds of its containerboard capacity in the US...

Andrews Sykes JACQUES MURRAY and Eric Hook have a stunning record as chairman and chief executive of Andrews Sykes. Since Mr Murray took control in 1994, the shares have grown in value more than 18 times over...

cent on the 14-15 per cent enjoyed by some of its rivals. Beeson Gregory increased its earnings per share prediction for 1999 from 60.7p to 66p, suggesting a prospective p/e of 18.2.

OTHER STERLING Argentina peso 1.6397-1.6394 Australia dollar 1.5762-1.5775 Belgium (com) 36.63-36.68

AMF Inc 40 29% Edison Int 39 29% Oxy Energy Co 29 29% Elect Data Sys 10 10%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) Currency 7 day 1 month 3 month 6 month Call Dollar 1.050 2.94 3.94 5.94 5.4

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES Mid Rates for May 11 Range Close 1 month 3 months 6 months 1 year

Table with columns for COMMODITIES, LIFFE, and various market data including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, and WHITE SUGAR.

Table with columns for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, and Japanese Govt Bond.

Table with columns for DOLLAR RATES, Australia, Belgium, Canada, and various international exchange rates.

Table with columns for MAJOR STOCKS, AMF Inc, Edison Int, Oxy Energy Co, and various company share prices.

Table with columns for LIFE OPTIONS, various stock prices, and market data for different sectors.

Table with columns for GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS, Bullion, and various metal prices.

Table with columns for STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES, Mid Rates for May 11, and various interest rate data.

Table with columns for MAJOR STOCKS (continued), various company share prices, and market data.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Body massa' and 'Inside tra'.

Moment of truth for the Cabinet Office

You can always tell when summer is finally on its way. It is less the sudden proliferation of white bodies in every urban park across the country, than the appearance of the first Cabinet reshuffle rumours. In a good year, speculation will keep the political circles busy through all those long summer days when there is no Parliament and little ministerial business to keep them otherwise occupied.

Tony Blair's first reshuffle, which is expected to arrive rather like the summer itself at any time between Whitson and late July, is unlikely to prove to be a vintage one. Labour's reasonably successful first year has meant that changes are likely to be limited with few ministers marked out as failures and no obvious need to add gloss to the Government at this stage.

Apart from elevating Peter Mandelson into a real government job and culling one or two second-string ministers there appears to be little for Mr Blair to do.

With the main departments — the Treasury, Education, DTI, Home Office and Foreign Office — set to remain Mandelson-free, it is the normally sleepy Cabinet Office that has emerged as the department most likely to see a big overhaul. The Cabinet Office's main task of overseeing the machinery of the Government and Civil Service is not one that lends itself to a high political profile. Its current incumbent, David Clark, has only one important piece of legislation — the Freedom of Information Act — to look after. His other work has concentrated on tasks such as overhauling the Government's IT systems which is, as Mr Clark self-effacingly admits, the kind of nerdy project that has failed to excite his Cabinet colleagues, let alone the media.

All this is expected to change with the publication of the Wilson report in the next few weeks. Sir Richard Wilson, Cabinet Secretary, has conducted a review of government policy-making and delivery

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

systems which is currently in the hands of the Prime Minister. Sir Richard is expected to recommend that the Cabinet Office be beefed up to become the chief implementation unit of the Government and Mr Mandelson is the minister tipped to benefit from this dramatic increase in power and prestige.

Policy implementation across the Government has long been a problem. Departmental autonomy and rivalry have often led to even the best policy proposals going badly astray. Sir Richard looked at the possibility of beefing up the "Prime Minister's Department" to try and resolve this problem but concluded that Number 10 already had enough on its plate. The Treasury, the other ministry

with an obvious cross-departmental role, also put in a bid to have its powers expanded. Not surprisingly, this quickly ran into opposition from other departments, while the merging of financial responsibility and policy execution would radically change the dynamics of British government.

Sir Richard's solution is to use a business model. Number 10 will continue to take a chairman's role, setting the strategic goals, providing support and acting as the "honest broker" if ministerial disputes cannot otherwise be resolved. The Cabinet Office can, in turn, develop a chief executive-type position, co-ordinating complex policy and ensuring its effective delivery using tools already at its disposal, such as its own efficiency unit.

The reform's broad goal of improving government service provision is surely to be welcomed. Most citizens in this country are aware that the artificial division between departments and between local and central authorities can make dealing with government a frustrating task. Central government holds on average 110 records about each citizen, yet it is almost impossible to cross-refer any of this data.

The current furore over the arms-to-Sierra Leone scandal also provides a telling reminder that even at the highest ranks of government, communication is at times risibly poor. The Government's new internet system, which by the autumn should contain about 95 per cent of all government documents, should improve matters — although you can never legislate for those ministers whose attention span is so short they do not even bother to read their own briefs properly.

However, the move to beef up the Cabinet Office — and

especially if Mr Mandelson succeeds to the post — also contains a substantial risk. A powerful Cabinet Office will be able to use its enhanced powers, less to improve service delivery, and more to heighten political control from the centre. Wags have already dubbed the new Mandelsonian Cabinet Office as the "Ministry for Truth". One senior minister recently cautioned that Mr Mandelson's arrival as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is likely to heighten political tension and hamper smooth implementation as personal rivalries come to the fore.

Mr Clark is frequently cited as ripe for the axe because he has been largely "anonymous". Yet, a less politically controversial figure, quietly going about the business of ensuring that the Government improves its delivery mechanisms, could be exactly what the Cabinet Office needs. With Mandelson in charge, however, the new improved Cabinet Office will be anything but quiet.

MARKET LEADER

Game of risk has sponsors on the edge

The euphoria at Goodison Park on Sunday, when 5,000 screaming scousers invaded the pitch to celebrate Everton's narrow escape from being relegated for the first time in 47 years, was echoed at the Borehamwood headquarters of One-2-One. It would have been pretty embarrassing for Everton if the mobile phone group had been relegated, to see the football team it has just started sponsoring lose its Premiership status in the first year of a £2 million, three-year, deal.

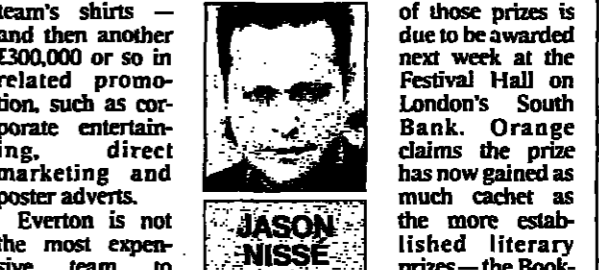
One-2-One's backing of Everton's overpaid under-achievers was a high-risk move in an increasingly expensive sports sponsorship market. The real cost to One-2-One of this deal is a good £1 million a year — £666,000 directly to Everton for the pleasure of One-2-One replacing the photocopy group Danica as the name on the team's shirts — and then another £300,000 or so in related promotion, such as corporate entertaining, direct marketing and poster adverts.

Everton is not the most expensive team to sponsor in the Premiership. Autoglass is believed to be paying Chelsea more than £1 million a year, and both JVC's long-term deal with Arsenal and Carlsberg's backing of Liverpool are of the same order. Aston Villa is looking for about £1 million a year from a new sponsor, replacing the computer group AST. The most expensive is Manchester United. Its £15 million-a-year deal with Sharp was due to run out this summer and United flirted with both Ford and CWC Communications before signing a two-year extension. Neither side would say how much this was worth, but it is believed to be about £6 million.

When One-2-One signed up with Everton it knew that relegation was a risk. The contract is understood to allow for a reduction if Everton do drop to the Nationwide First Division, but there is no break clause, as some sponsors agree, should the team they back be relegated. No team in the top flight — apart from the Premiership winners, Arsenal — has consistently avoided relegation. "You

should only take on a sponsorship if you accept that the results on the pitch are not an integral part of why you are doing it," said Peter Raymond, a consultant whose client, Britannia Building Society, backs Stoke City, recently relegated to the Second Division.

The only way to avoid this problem is to sponsor a competition — such as the Coca-Cola Cup or cricket's NatWest Trophy — or a national team. However, as Green Flag has discovered with the England football team, not being able to put the sponsor's name on team shirts limits the exposure your sponsorship buys.



JASON NISSE

ORANGE, One-2-One's rival, has avoided this pain by eschewing sports sponsorship in favour of the arts. Three years ago it launched the Orange Prize for Fiction, for creative writing by women. The third of those prizes is due to be awarded next week at the Festival Hall on London's South Bank. Orange claims the prize has now gained as much cachet as the more established literary prizes — the Booker and the Whitbread. That seems a bit strong, but it represents a good return on the £200,000 a year Orange invests in the prize (the total cost — the prize is only £30,000).

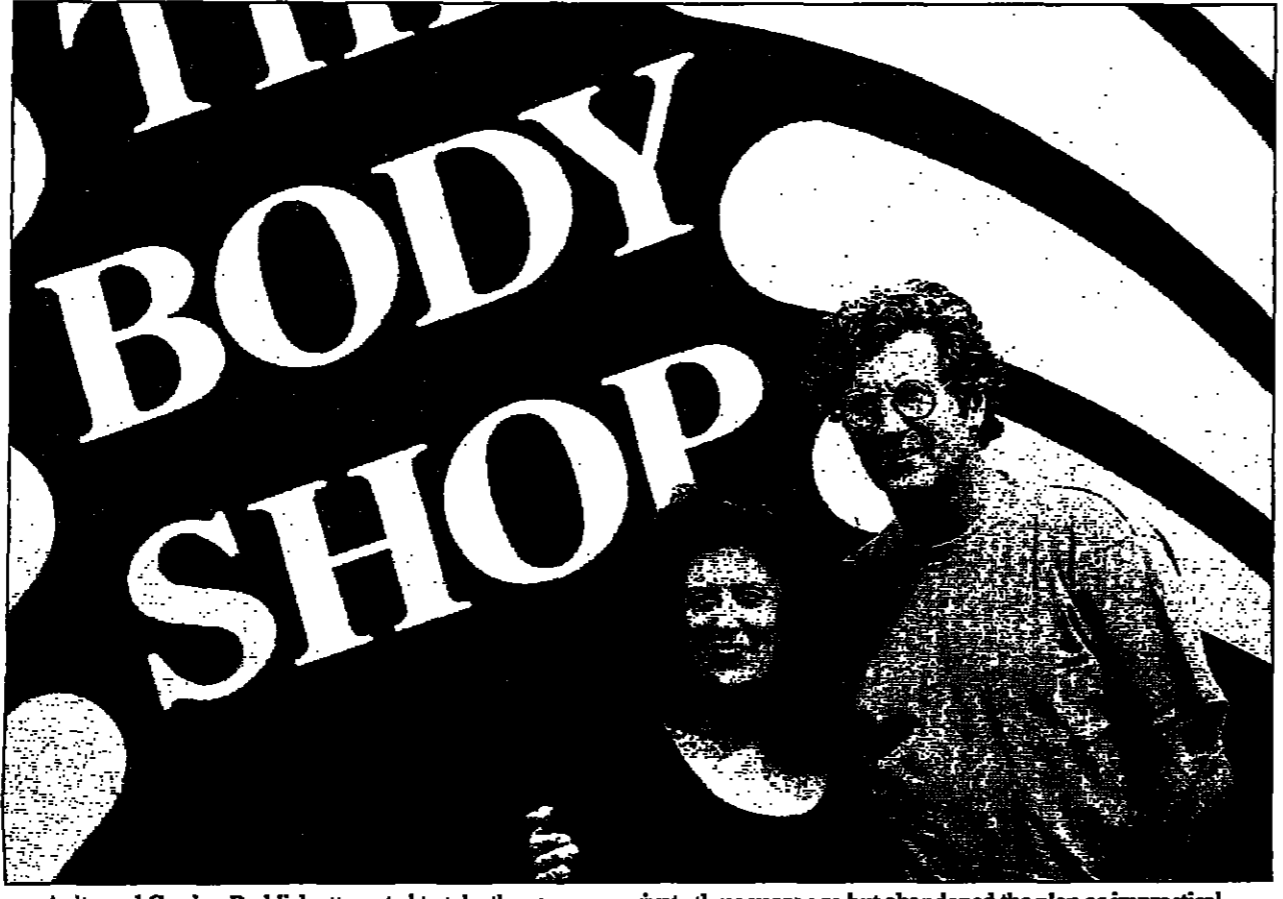
Inspired by this, Orange has dipped more of its handset in the arts sponsorship waters. First it put £250,000 behind the British Film Academy Awards — now demerged from the television awards — then Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, announced at the awards ceremony that it would be backing a screenwriting prize.

Details of this are to be unveiled next Monday at the Cannes Film Festival. Orange is putting £750,000 into the "Orange Prize of Screenwriting", giving a series of cash prizes for original scripts by writers who have not already had a film made.

Orange, as always, makes some pretty strong claims about its sponsorship, talking about sparking a renaissance in the British film industry. These renaissances come around every three or four years — about the same frequency as an Everton relegation struggle.

Body Shop faces tough task of massaging away City concerns

Roddicks learn hard reality of answering to investors, says Sarah Cunningham



Anita and Gordon Roddick attempted to take the company private three years ago but abandoned the plan as impractical

The Body Shop has traditionally avoided dealing directly with the City whenever possible. Anita Roddick is matched only by Alan Sugar in her disdain for teenage scribbles, striped ties and their ilk. But today her husband, Gordon Roddick, co-founder and chairman, and Stuart Rose, managing director, will make one of their rare treks from the company's headquarters in Littlehampton, West Sussex, to the Square Mile in order to talk directly to analysts and journalists about just why the Body Shop should not yet be written off.

They will face an uphill struggle as the group, which has nearly 1,500 branches in some 50 countries, is facing crises on almost all imaginable fronts.

In the US its losses are deepening. In Asia it has been hit by the local economic problems. In the UK it is seen to be losing out to the proliferating "me too" brands. Worst of all it has had some serious fallings out with its all-important franchisees.

Its shares, which traded at nearly 200p in the autumn of last year, are now staggering along at between 11p and 120p. Drastic action is expected to try to restore confidence, with talk of top-level management changes and an overhaul of the board. The Roddicks have said in the past that they would like to take more of a back seat and spend time on their many other interests. Dealing with the group's current problems has so far made that impossible, but bringing in some top-flight managers would both take the pressure off and please investors.

The group is expected to

name a partner for the US business today. While a deal will probably be welcomed by investors, it will also mark a watershed in the company's 22-year history. It has never before teamed up with an outsider to run any part of its business. The US partner would be expected to reorganise the Body Shop's administration and distribution, which the company has pinpointed as the cause of many of its difficulties. A previous attempt to restore the business ended earlier this year when Steen Kantor, head of American operations, quit after only 17 months. The importance of the US to Body Shop should not be underestimated: it is the company's biggest market, with 290 shops against 256 in Britain.

The City will be just as curious, however, to hear more about the Body Shop's performance in Asia. In its post-Christmas trading statement, the last time the com-

pany reported on its sales, it said that they had fallen 8 per cent in the ten weeks to January 3. Japanese sales have been weak for the past six months.

The Asian problems have come at a particularly difficult time for Body Shop, which has been expanding aggressively in the region and was, for a

company reported on its sales, it said that they had fallen 8 per cent in the ten weeks to January 3. Japanese sales have been weak for the past six months.

The Asian problems have come at a particularly difficult time for Body Shop, which has been expanding aggressively in the region and was, for a

the stock market, it was able to claim that it was the absolute leader in "natural" cosmetics. The use of Third World-sourced ingredients was emphasised, as was the complete avoidance of animal testing. As a place to shop, it managed to seem both wholesome and exciting.

Since then, natural-sounding potions have become available at everywhere from Asda to Boots, and the cosmetics market as a whole has become increasingly crowded. Among other recent market entrants, Richard Branson is backing Virgin Vie, which offers a wide range of aspirationally packaged cosmetics from six shops. The company is planning to have 50 shops in the next three years, and also to recruit 3,000 salespeople to sell to friends and family, Tupperware style. There are currently 1,000 such direct salespeople.

Meanwhile, Anita Roddick, despite becoming one of the

They should get out of retailing because they are terrible at it

time, seeing a good return. But Body Shop's problems arguably go deeper than a few serious regional difficulties.

According to John Richards, who is now an analyst at NatWest Markets, and who, at the old Capel-Cure Myers, helped to float Body Shop, the company's problem is that it has become too much of a retailer, having begun to buy

with the amount they are being offered. In France, franchisees fell out spectacularly with the company which they said was not offering them proper support, and Body Shop had to step in to run the French business as head franchisee itself. Even in Britain there have been rumblings of discontent among franchise holders.

When the company came to

Inside track

I HEAR that our regulators, far from being the toothless watchdogs they are sometimes painted, are turning over one of the biggest operators in the City. A bunch of dealers have been caught front-running in the short-term lira contract. Front-running is a form of insider trading whereby you know one of your clients is in the market to buy something, and you tip off your friends to buy beforehand in the expectation that the price will rise.

That is a grossly over-simplified definition, but believe me, you don't want to hear the complex one. It has long been speculated that there is a syndicate of dealers in the City who indulge in this sort of thing, which is illegal but extremely hard to prove. It is unlikely that the lot the Securities and Futures Authority is questioning are linked with this syndicate, which tends to prey on the equities market.

Now comes the tricky bit. I know which firm is being questioned, but I am not allowed to say. This is because if the SFA fails to take action, the firm can sue me even if I am right, because the SFA is not allowed to confirm that it is questioning anyone. Strange but true. But I just thought you ought to know.



IT IS probably a bit unkind to mention it, as rumours say PDFM is to be sold once Swiss Bank Corporation gets its hands on the fund manager. But the latest issue of PDFM's Pension Fund Indicators is described as "a long-term perspective on pension fund investment". Best to concentrate on the long term, given your short-term performance. And I did like the picture on the front. It is of a rainbow, the sort that you find pots of gold at the end of. Except that you never do. Very symbolic.



Sad song
CITIBANK has formed a worldwide joint venture with Sir Elton John. I try to find out yesterday just what the two will be doing together now "The Elton John partnership" is formally launched. An album of duets? Have they brought him in as a fashion consultant? Not precisely. Citibank is merely sponsoring a few concerts.

The deal was stitched up well after a certain solo performance the singer gave at Westminster Abbey last September made him famous again. He is to be used on advertisements to promote Citibank's plans to attract a billion customers, about one in six

people on Earth, by the year 2010. There is just one tiny problem. In January, within a couple of weeks of the deal being signed, we learned from his accountant that Elton was having serious cash flow difficulties. His shopping spree were so far out of control that he was in danger of running out of money. A curious role model for a credit card firm, surely?

LORD ARCHER of Weston-super-Mare is at the Butchers Hall today to give his views on the future of the London insurance market and, unless modesty gets the better of him, make a suggestion about who should be the next Mayor of London. I dare say, on second thoughts, delete the phrase that starts "unless modesty". I understand he can expect at least one tricky question. Archer has said he will donate his salary as mayor, expected to be about £90,000, to charity if, heaven forbid, he gets the job. The magazine The London Insurance Insider will ask him if the same goes for the fee he gets for attending the gathering now he is formally in the running. And if not, why not?

61 internationals, broke all scoring records and captained the British Lions before retiring three years ago to make some serious money.

He has been running his own personal management company, the imaginatively titled Hastings International. Today he launches Craigie Hastings, the Edinburgh affiliate of Craigie Taylor, the sponsorship experts. I would normally say something deeply wounding here about marketing men and marketing stunts, but he is a big chap and I have already upset an unspecified number of London Scottish prop forwards.



Full back to pack leader? Gavin Hastings launches a new venture

A hard hat won't protect you from this. But we can.

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20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4A 6HD
Tel: 0171 248 4282

Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, organized in columns with headers for fund names and prices.

Advertisement for Telia, featuring the text 'I tell me it's easy' and contact information for solutions for business, including a phone number and website URL.

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'ALCOHOL BEVERAGES' and 'SALES'.

Shares surge after slow start

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Main table of stock prices with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % Change. Includes various sectors like Banks, Breweries, Building Materials, Chemicals, Construction, Distributors, Electricity, Electronic & Elect, Engineering, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household GDS & Text, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Media, Mining, Oil & Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers, Food, Retailers, General, Support Services, Telecommunications, Transport, and Water.

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Table of stock prices categorized by industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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The Good University guide

In day two of the series, David Charter, below, and John O'Leary, right, assess what pupils look for in higher education

On course for a career

The class of 1998 is studying its university options with a close eye on the career advantages the course will bring, a survey of hundreds of sixth-formers discloses today.

Career prospects are the main factor for choosing a particular university and course for two-thirds of 17 and 18-year-olds.

A burning interest in the subject was given as the priority by 30 per cent and social reasons were the top factor in going to university for just 6 per cent.

The survey of 813 sixth-formers was conducted by *The Times* last week at five schools: two comprehensives, one girls' grammar and one boys' grammar, and one sixth-form college.

It shows widespread concern among teenagers over the elitist image of Oxford and Cambridge, a factor the two ancient universities are striving hard to overcome to attract more state school applicants.

Overall, 46 per cent of those surveyed said they were put off by the image of Oxbridge. This varied from 36 per cent at the boys' grammar to 53 per cent at the sixth-form college.

Six years on from polytechnics gaining university status to give them equal status with the traditional universities, their image still troubles many teenagers.

Asked whether they were put off by the status of the former polytechnics, 51 per cent agreed. Again there were wide variations between types of schools. Warmness of former polytechnics was greatest at the girls' selective school, where 69 per cent of sixth-formers were put off. The next highest level of concern about their image was at the boys' grammar (58 per cent), followed by 48 per cent at the sixth-form college, 41 per cent at the larger comprehensive and 37 per cent at the smaller comprehensive school.

Taking a year off remains a popular idea despite — or maybe because of — the introduction of £1,000 course fees this autumn.

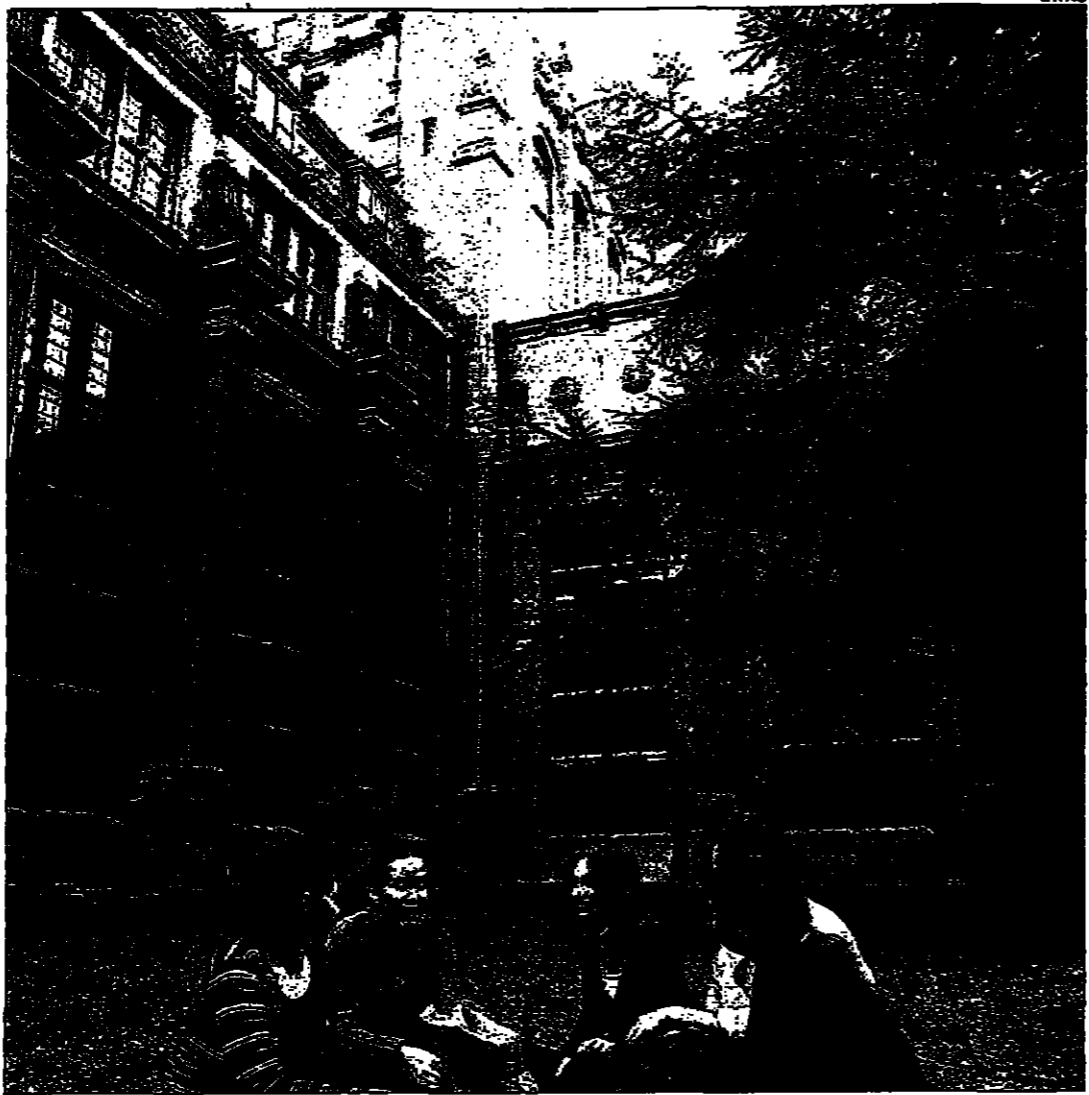
Nearly one in three sixth-formers said they intended to take a year out of education for a variety of reasons including travel, charity work and raising money to pay for university life. Pupils at the smaller comprehensive school and the boys' grammar were over twice as likely to take a year off than the sixth-form college students.

The tables below show the percentage of students overall at the five schools who chose the suggested factors as the top influence.

They clearly give some bad news for parents, at least as far as their bank balances are concerned.

Over half the teenagers admitted their main source of income at university would be their parents.

A further 30 per cent said they would rely primarily on the maximum £8,200 available over a three-



School-leavers consider career prospects when applying to institutions like Bristol University, above

year course from the Student Loans Company. The growing importance of student employment is shown by the 5 per cent who believe a term-time job will be their main source of income at university.

Very few pupils from the five institutions surveyed, which all have strong records for A-level results, said they were not applying to university. Just 7 per cent of the students, and none from the girls' grammar, had other plans.

Nationally, a third of this year's school-leavers will go on to take up a university place. The main reason

for opting out — the desire for a break from education — suggests a return at some stage for 42 per cent of non-applicants.

The Times would like to thank the participating schools for their help: Durham Johnston Comprehensive in Durham; Greenhead College in Huddersfield; King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls in Birmingham; Royal Grammar School for Boys in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire; and Wrenn School in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

TOP OF THE CROP

Sixth-formers' view of the best universities:

Cambridge	76
Oxford	75
Durham	32
Nottingham	26
Bristol	21
Manchester	21
Birmingham	18
Edinburgh	15
Warwick	15
Imperial	14
Leeds	14
Sheffield	14

The figures show the percentage of English sixth-formers choosing these universities when asked to name the best five in Britain.

Main reasons for not applying to university:

Break from education	42
Job opportunities	28
Tuition fees	23
Other financial reasons	12
Other	8

Figures show percentage of sixth-formers choosing the main factor from those shown.

Additional research by Daniel Martin

Former poly shakes the ancient portals

Universities always feared that the introduction of tuition fees would play havoc with their applications. But the latest statistics, sent to universities on Friday, demonstrate that a variety of factors influences students.

Nationally, applications are 3 per cent down, with the bulk of the decline occurring among mature students. But the table below shows enormous and apparently unpredictable variations between universities.

A dozen institutions have seen demand for places drop by 10 per cent or more, eight of them former polytechnics with traditionally high proportions of mature applicants. Yet four of the six universities where applications have risen by more than 10 per cent are in the same category.

Who would have thought that Thames Valley University, with the largest proportion of mature students in our table and the subject of much unfavourable press coverage over degree standards, would have by far the biggest rise? Its 40 per cent increase is almost twice as big as second-placed Bath.

The transformation shows, among other things, what can be achieved by marketing. While Thames Valley obviously suffered from last year's row over the revision of degree boundaries, subsequent publicity for its prize-winning learning resources centre, designed by Richard Rogers, may have undone some of the damage. The key to the university's phenomenal success appears

to have been improved recruitment from local schools and colleges.

The pattern of demand for university places has always held surprises. Oxford and Cambridge, for example, receive far fewer applications for places than do traditionally popular choices such as Bristol and Nottingham. Sixth-formers take a realistic, or often pessimistic, view of their chances of an Oxbridge place.

Geography is another important influence. The five universities with the largest numbers of applications are big institutions in the Midlands and the North, with good links to most parts of the country. Students, it is said, like to get away from home, but not too far.

Manchester University just pips Leeds to the top spot, despite a 6 per cent fall in applications this year. Manchester, which has two universities among the five with the most applications, gains from a fashionable image with young people.

Recent surveys have suggested that Newcastle is the new student

Mecca, but this has not prevented the city's two universities from registering among the sharper drops in applications.

Although the civic universities are still attracting more applications than their newer neighbours, they certainly have not escaped this year's decline. Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Nottingham and Newcastle have all experienced a dip of at least 6 per cent this year, despite their traditional reliance on school-leavers.

Scottish universities seem to have suffered with the uncertainty over fees for students from England. Edinburgh, which has the largest number of English students, has seen applications decline by almost 9 per cent, as has Strathclyde. Abertay and Dundee have been hit even harder.

The figures in the table below compare the number of applications processed by Ucas by May 8 with the equivalent date last year. With each applicant allowed six choices of college or university, the overall decline of 60,968 represents just over 10,000 people.



Thames Valley University: the biggest applications rise

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

1997 1998 % change			1997 1998 % change			1997 1998 % change					
Thames Valley	7,980	11,182	40.2	Lampeter	1,480	1,480	0.0	Birmingham	35,958	33,466	-6.9
Bath	12,646	15,395	21.7	Middlessex	26,207	26,187	-0.1	Napier	10,888	10,105	-7.0
Huddersfield	13,420	15,773	17.5	Old Brookes	17,947	17,827	-0.7	N Ldn	18,884	18,492	-2.0
Staffordshire	18,116	19,519	7.7	Licestaster	17,729	17,716	-0.4	Sunderland	13,541	12,585	-7.1
Lancaster	14,964	16,928	13.1	Ulster	11,810	10,720	-9.3	Liverpool	30,435	28,129	-7.6
W of England	22,082	24,988	13.2	Goldsmiths	9,200	9,117	-0.9	Nottingham	41,126	37,977	-7.7
Paisley	5,178	6,717	8.8	Durham	21,232	20,984	-1.2	Exeter	20,257	18,672	-7.8
Aston	9,211	10,018	8.7	Wolverhampton	16,811	16,582	-1.3	Sussex	12,252	11,280	-7.9
Brunel	21,059	22,915	8.9	Glasgow	25,479	25,039	-1.7	Newcastle	28,877	24,507	-8.1
Leeds Met	25,377	27,281	7.5	Edinburgh	9,788	9,617	-1.7	Edinburgh	31,343	28,622	-8.7
Lincs & Humb	6,475	9,100	7.4	St Andrews	7,343	7,210	-1.8	Strathclyde	18,523	16,911	-8.7
York	14,820	15,725	6.1	Reading	19,896	19,617	-1.9	Kingston	20,429	18,594	-9.0
Loughborough	15,254	16,903	5.9	Sheff Hallam	22,713	22,152	-2.1	Kent	14,617	13,283	-9.1
Derby	24,445	25,409	3.9	Uni Coll Lon	42,436	41,181	-3.0	Ulster	37,550	34,106	-8.2
Royal Holloway	9,068	9,510	4.9	Salford	20,392	19,752	-3.1	Queen's Bel	22,194	20,650	-7.2
Lan Gaidheal	12,177	12,750	4.7	Hertfordshire	17,752	17,173	-3.3	South Bank	17,219	15,499	-10.0
LSU	22,088	22,919	4.2	Sheffield	37,355	36,063	-3.4	Liverpool JMU	30,515	27,190	-10.8
De Montfort	14,554	15,600	7.2	Robert Gordon	8,911	8,890	-0.6	March Met	40,393	35,954	-11.2
City	13,120	13,821	5.3	Bangor	8,377	8,061	-3.8	Luton	14,150	12,485	-11.8
UMIST	10,822	11,435	3.1	Coventry	20,132	19,341	-3.9	Northumbria	23,387	20,561	-12.1
Warwick	23,328	24,022	3.0	Cent England	17,990	16,878	-4.0	Keele	10,137	8,877	-12.4
Southampton	25,471	27,224	6.9	Sheff Hallam	32,063	32,063	0.0	Abertay	4,626	4,004	-13.1
QMUL London	13,894	14,367	3.4	Swansea	9,705	9,318	-4.0	Dundee	10,131	8,886	-14.4
Henri-Watt	7,510	7,892	2.4	Glasgow Cal	16,495	17,702	-4.3	East Anglia	12,263	10,449	-14.8
E London	14,583	14,897	2.2	Westminster	21,458	20,516	-4.4	Nott Trent	39,310	33,104	-15.8
Bournemouth	16,290	16,648	2.2	Portsmouth	16,451	17,584	-6.7	Plymouth	24,938	22,827	-8.1
Greenwich	17,561	17,850	1.6	Teesside	10,249	9,739	-5.0	Buckingham	1,019	902	-18.8
Aberystwyth	8,387	8,585	2.3	Cambridge	12,355	11,701	-5.3	NATIONAL TOTALS			
Bradford	11,322	11,549	2.0	Strirling	10,156	9,564	-5.8	Applications	1,798,207	1,751,949	-2.6
Bristol	35,038	36,588	4.5	Imperial	14,426	13,573	-5.9	Degrave (UK side)	195,565	193,697	-1.0
Central Lancs	19,829	14,130	-2.9	Manchester	44,451	41,886	-5.8	Eng (over-seas side)	186,565	185,071	-0.8
Glasgow	11,758	11,913	1.3	Brighton	23,330	21,779	-6.6	ROI (home side)	101,574	99,875	-1.7
King's, Lon	24,647	24,453	0.8	Hull	15,086	14,068	-6.7	ROI (over-seas)	3,967	4,356	9.1
Essex	6,440	6,397	0.7	Surrey	7,679	7,164	-6.7	All applicants	2,039,733	1,978,765	-3.0
Cardiff	21,709	21,772	0.3	Anglia	8,280	8,641	-3.9				

University tables.

Who's in a league of their own?

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT
www.thetimes.co.uk

There is more to entering the halls of academia than choosing a course, says Harvey Atkinson

Choosing a university means a lot more than finding a course where the entry requirements match your predicted grades at A level. For half of all students, higher education means moving to a new town or city for at least three years. Britain's motorways and railways are busy with prospective students on the trail of a new home.

Jackie Andrews, a 29-year-old mature student, was glad she did not stick to the first university city she visited.

"I looked at lots of colleges and went to a few open days. The first college I went to I thought yes, this is the place for me. I loved it," she said.

"A while later I grudgingly went to an open day at Leeds thinking that it was a complete waste of time. I was so wrong. I actually ended up studying at Leeds and loved it."

As well as finding the course that suited her, Jackie found that the cost of living in Leeds was cheap and the area she was based in had good access to public transport, which was essential for getting around town.

An educated guess at the right college

She was also able to get a place in a hall of residence for her first year.

She said: "I am glad I made sure that I could get a place in halls as it saved so much time and I made lots of friends.

"I was lucky because my sister had gone to university before me and gave me a list of things to look for when I went to the open days so I was able to make an informed choice."

It is important to speak to university staff to find out about non-academic sides of the course, such as whether there is a personal tutor system.

This is essential for providing pastoral support and assisting students in their academic progress.

Even if the course has a personal tutor system, struc-

tures will vary. It is important to ask how accessible the personal tutors are.

Another point to check is how the course is evaluated. Some students may find that they would prefer to be assessed through exams rather than by large amounts of course work. These questions can only be answered by tutors.

Also, have a look around the library and inquire about the standard of learning support facilities.

You also need to think about prospects after you have graduated. By having a chat with the careers service you can find out how many graduates went on to find employment or progressed to study for post-graduate qualifications.

Try to spend some time in the town. The student union will be able to provide information on entertainment and any SU worth its salt will have a club and pub guide.

Student unions are an invaluable guide to all sorts of information. Most will run bars, clubs and provide sports and societies for students to get involved in and provide part-time employment.

A good measure of a student union is the number of active student clubs and societies. If you are a keen sports person hunt out the athletic union and

ask about their status in the British University Sports Association league tables.

Joe Ashworth, 24, went to Sussex University and was glad he asked some pertinent questions.

"I originally wanted to go to another college and had set my heart on it until I went to the open day," he said.

"I was quite impressed with the course and the tutors seemed friendly. I decided to have a look around and I started chatting to some

people in the students' union about accommodation, living costs and general student life. I am so glad I did.

"I found out that the standard of accommodation was not up to my own personal tastes and the halls were in an area where the locals hated students. I ended up at Sussex and haven't looked back."

For some students even an informed decision about which college to choose can turn out to be incorrect.

Moirra Mooney, 35, said: "I was studying English literature but found the course too restrictive and too rigid for my learning style. After a few weeks I wanted to transfer to another course. I went to my careers office who gave me advice and support and enabled me to transfer to the University of Kent."

Access to private tutors is an important consideration

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THE TIMES ARTS

FILM
Spotlight on
the alternative
Cannes festival
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At the National Gallery Richard Cork surveys a golden age of intense, sensuous picture-making from Utrecht

Light years in the powerhouse

Crazy for Blanche

"I WANT magic, not realism," Blanche DuBois tells Mitch, the man who has recently abdicated his role as the fading Southern belle's saviour. This is a plea that might also be made of Robin Lefevre's production (at the Gate, in Dublin) of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which more than once errs towards the prosaic in interpreting Tennessee Williams's richly melodramatic drama. Williams's gorgeously camp vagabond epitaph — "I have always relied on the kindness of strangers" — can evoke a history, an attitude and a state of mind without further em-

THEATRE

bellishment. Having Blanche (Frances McDormand) deliver it while rubbing her knee enticingly against the Doctor leading her to a rest home suggests that a far lighter directorial touch is required. These closing moments provide a disconcerting climax to McDormand's night's work, which has created an excellent, hugely sympathetic Blanche. She reins in the madness and offers instead a sharp, intelligent character who has simply had the most appalling run of bad luck. In McDormand's hands, Blanche maintains a warmly sardonic demeanour that makes Stanley (Liam Cunningham) seem more than ever "a ape" who has set his heart on her total destruction. Cunningham steers clear of offering a charismatic apology for Stanley's brutality, while Donna Dent's Stella is a piece of emotional driftwood, incapable of comprehending the real significance of the drama spinning around her. Lefevre's production manages to convince that there is still plenty of life in the play, but fails to take full advantage of the vivid mix of fantasy and grinding reality it offers.

LUKE CLANCY

Overtaken by rival cities during the great Dutch expansion of the 17th century, Utrecht was an unlikely location for ambitious, innovative painters. But the slow pace of change there did not prevent it from nurturing a remarkable cluster of artists. An ancient riverside city, boasting a cathedral tower taller than any other structure in The Netherlands, Utrecht became for 50 years a powerhouse of intense, sensuous picture-making. The opening room of the National Gallery's absorbing survey of Utrecht painters in the so-called Golden Age is astonishingly erotic. Anyone who thinks of Dutch art as a sober, Protestant affair will find that Joachim Wtewael's work offers a reproof. For the aristocracy of Utrecht favoured mythological subjects, and they allowed artists to indulge in unashamed displays of naked flesh. Influenced by the perverse distortions of Mannerism, Wtewael transformed his large *Saint Sebastian* canvas into a flagrant celebration of the male nude. Awaiting his death, the narcissistic saint flexes his muscular physique while two captors tie him to a tree. A teasing loincloth is about to slide off his well-developed hips, making him bear more resemblance to a Chippendale stripper than an anguished martyr. Abraham Bloemaert, Wtewael's exact contemporary and the leading painter in Utrecht, could be equally brazen. In *Moses Striking the Rock*, the bearded prophet is relegated to distant, shadowy insignificance. Bloemaert ensures that the foreground is choked with excitable figures, each adopting an outrageously theatrical pose. The crouching man seems concerned with showing off his well-formed buttocks, while the posturing woman at the centre flaunts her pale breasts like a dancer at an orgiastic feast. Among all this hedonism, a darker side is occasionally detectable. Wtewael's tall painting of the captive Andromeda seems at first to be another parade of voluptuous, scantily draped flesh. Her comely feet are, however, surrounded by a cornucopia of skulls, bones and shells on the seashore, gruesome evidence of human mortality. The patrons of Utrecht also included many who clung to the beleaguered Roman Catholic faith. While Calvinism flourished elsewhere in the new Republic, they were allowed to maintain their allegiance to Rome in private worship. They favoured painters who had studied in Italy, and an outstanding generation returned from their Mediterranean travels inspired above all by Caravaggio. Dra-



In *The Procuress* Dirck van Baburen, the most headlong of the emergent Utrecht generation, fed a growing appetite for ugliness and violence

dominated by a plumed hat and the swaggering, peacock-blue stripes of a sleeve ablaze with sunlight. But ter Brugghen hints at a sadness that contrasts with the bravado of the player's costume. Unease turns into furtiveness with ter Brugghen's more complex painting of *The Concert*. Three performers are depicted this time, clustered with conspiratorial intimacy around a candle. Its exposed flame is positioned perilously near their sleeves. Brightness darts among the deep folds, permitting ter Brugghen to display his command over the sensuous play between extremes of luminosity and darkness. In ter Brugghen's most tragic religious image, fervency is replaced by terminal weariness. *Saint Sebastian*, so near to death that his pallid flesh has taken on a gangrenous

green tinge, slumps forward. Things still attach his right wrist to the tree, but Saint Irene's assistant will soon release them. No trace remains here of the preening Sebastian painted by Wtewael a quarter of a century before. Nor does ter Brugghen's martyr possess any of the chiselled poise commanded by Honthorst's Sebastian. He is defeated, and the sunset parallels his own imminent extinction. After ter Brugghen's own death in 1629, at the age of only 42, Utrecht painting never regained the profundity of humane feeling explored in his most arresting images. They are inexhaustible, and he deserves to be seen as one of the most consummate artists of the Dutch Republic during its prodigious flowering. *Masters of Light is at the National Gallery (0171-639 3321) until Aug 2*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

NO DOUBT a reason for within some lightly curving, uterine form. There are also graphic inscriptions on the painted surface and, in explanation of the show's title, the artist offers a series of seemingly irreconcilable opposites — chaos and order, fuzzy and focused — which we are advised should not be synthesised, but rather held together in dynamic balance to set up creative tension. The way this is expressed in paint is through sweeping gestures, a rather harsh subaqueous blue and a luscious pink being especially prominent. *Freud Museum, 20 Maresfield Gardens, NW3 (0171-436 2002), until May 24*

representing Mueck's face as he imagines it perceived by his own small children. It is fascinating to see the skill and the imagination for once so perfectly matched. *Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 21 Dering Street, W1 (0171-499 4100), until June 18*

■ WHAT'S in a name? Quite a lot, frequently, when the public's image of an artist is in play. And what kind of artist would you visualise if given the name Mildred Bendall and the dates 1891-1977? Whatever you might imagine, you would probably be wrong. Bendall was born in Bordeaux, of an English father and a French mother, and all her training was French. She also had a close association with Matisse and Marquet. Her work makes complete sense in relation to this: a brilliant sense of hot, subtropical colours is deployed in landscapes and still lifes which might not be a stone's throw from Matisse's Riviera studio. Occasionally a touch of Cubism suffuses a still life; often Bendall's unusual delight in fish reveals itself. This show concentrates on the smaller works, notably watercolours and drawings such as have not been seen before, and which Bendall never exhibited during her lifetime. *Whitford Fine Art, 6 Duke Street, St James's, SW1 (0171-930 9332), until May 29*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



One of Gabrielle Rifkind's Jungian explorations

entirely naked man enclosed within some lightly curving, uterine form. There are also graphic inscriptions on the painted surface and, in explanation of the show's title, the artist offers a series of seemingly irreconcilable opposites — chaos and order, fuzzy and focused — which we are advised should not be synthesised, but rather held together in dynamic balance to set up creative tension. The way this is expressed in paint is through sweeping gestures, a rather harsh subaqueous blue and a luscious pink being especially prominent. *Freud Museum, 20 Maresfield Gardens, NW3 (0171-436 2002), until May 24*

■ APPARENTLY the only absolute discovery of the *Sensation* show at the Royal Academy last year was Ron Mueck, who had never shown a single work in public before his *Dead Dad*, a frighteningly, minutely realistic nude figure of the artist's dead father, reduced to child's size, caused one stir among many in the show. Mueck's first one-man show, at Anthony d'Offay, confirms his amazing skill at producing uncanny likenesses, and at the same time his delight in playing tricks with scale. One of the four sculptures, made of "mixed media" which must be primarily silicone and acrylic, is a disgruntled-looking angel with great feathery wings, less than half human size. Another is a huge self-portrait Mask

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LISTINGS

Rent's opening night

LONDON THE GREAT GATSBY: Phil Smith's musical adaptation of the Scott Fitzgerald novel...

TODAY'S CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

ELSEWHERE

BEAUFORT: Jean Rigby, one of the UK's most popular mezzo-sopranos, joins the Philharmonia Orchestra for a performance of Berlioz's enchanting...

Jean Rigby sings with the PO in Bedford

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

song-cycle Les Moutons d'Été. It is sandwiched by Beethoven's hymn to his native Austria...

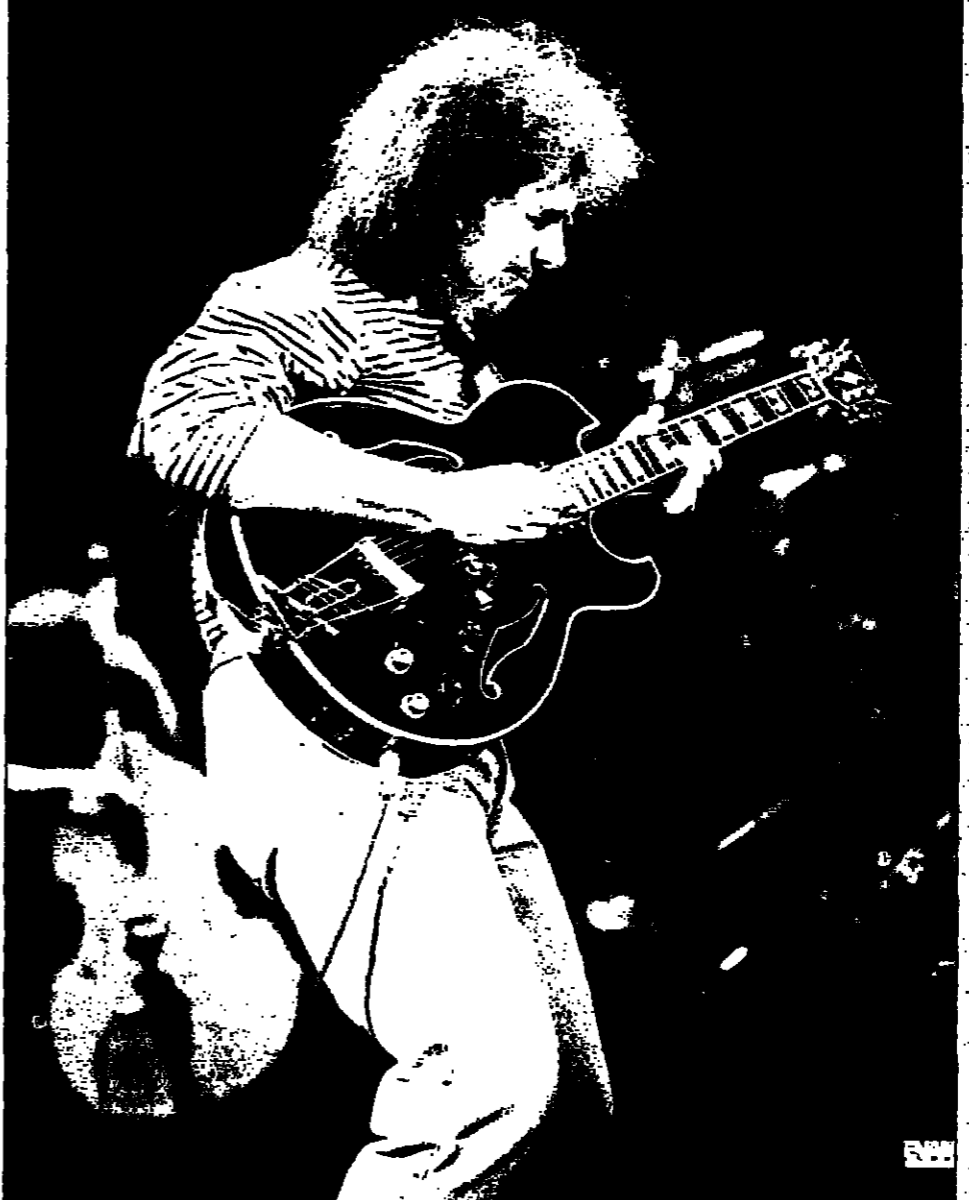
LONDON GALLERIES

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Fusion of style and substance

Few musicians have bridged the gap between jazz and rock with greater style and authority than Pat Metheny. In a recording career spanning 22 years...



Pat Metheny rocks - or is it jazzes? - out during his pyrotechnic display at the Empire

Joined by his group, he struck out with Have You Heard, a number which neatly distilled the classic elements of his sound...

From there, the group stretched out in a variety of directions, playing all but one of the tracks from Imaginary Days...

ANN SCANLON

The starry starts here

Nick Cave LAZ, WGG The last time Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds played in England they did a two-night stint at the Albert Hall...

A tufted act to follow

Super Furry Animals Olympia, Essex This double bill of slightly scatty, psychedelic pop looked an inspired pairing on paper...

NICK KELLY

NEW RELEASES

THE HANGING GARDEN (15) Gay man returns home to find a house full of memories... LOUTA (18) Unrelatable adaptation of Nabokov's novel...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

ART GALLERIES

A selection of works from an eclectic British artist in the studios of a former...

THEATRES

APOLLO LABRATS: Hamlet (1998-1999) DOCTOR DOLORE: The Musical... THE ROYAL OPERA: The Royal Albert Hall...

CRITERION

SHAKESPEARE COMPANY: THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

THEATRES

APOLLO VICTORIA: The Royal Albert Hall... THE PETER HALL COMPANY: LA FEMME EN CONCERT

THEATRES

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Advertisement for 'Hymn to Love' at The Drill Hall Theatre, featuring a large image of a couple and text about the performance.

Vertical advertisement for 'Lost in America' and 'Music while' featuring a large image of a person's face.

MUSIC

Hanns Eisler's centenary

Lost in American space

Alively but short beginning with Strike up the Band, a loss of what little momentum there is as the stage is reset for the chamber-orchestra version of Appalachian Spring...

CONCERTS Hallé/Nagano Manchester

England would surely have been a more entertaining and more informative example of Americana than the Fourth Symphony, which can be very heavy going in places.

Music while they worked

Class war came to the South Bank on Saturday, or so it would have seemed to the unwary hearing rousing workers' choruses in the foyer of the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Eisler Day Queen Elizabeth Hall

Schoenberg, with whom he fell out when he announced that "bourgeois musical life" bored him and that "the only task worthy of an artist was writing for the workers".

sons unfair, except perhaps when it comes to their respective collaborations with Brecht. Certainly in Saturday's dusting-off of Die Mutter, an adaptation of Gorky, it was a case of a little going a long way...

GERALD LARNER

Two pillars of the London Symphony Orchestra, its leader Alexander Barantschik and its principal cellist Tim Hugh, had a chance to show what they were made of on Sunday when they were the soloists in Brahms's Double Concerto.

Rapier bound to scalpel

continued to make their mark on Davis's stirring performance of Elgar's First Symphony. The voice of Hugh, together with the equally distinctive clarinet of Andrew Marriner, brought a wonderful tremulous core to their little introspective episodes in the midst of the opening Allegro's bustle and bravado.

that of their colleagues this was a good rather than a great performance. Davis's Elgar has a similar sweep, a comparable strength of undertow to the best of his Sibelius. What I missed, though, was a certain sense of spiritual fragility.

JOHN ALLISON

FILM: The other Riviera festival, Directors' Fortnight, is 30 years old. Sheila Johnston reports



Without Pierre Henri Deleau's Directors' Fortnight, Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel might never have walked those Mean Streets in 1973

The maverick of Cannes

At 8pm on a Friday about six weeks ago, Pierre Henri Deleau emerged blinking from one of the preview theatres dotted around Soho, the heartland of the British film industry.

But Deleau takes pride in spotting new talent, and his selections contain a high proportion of first features. Many are doomed to sink without trace. But some go on to popular success: last year there was Ma Vie En Rose, My Son The Fanatic and Kissed,

Advertisement for 'AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE' featuring Ian McKellen's performance. Includes text: 'A MAJOR EVENT' and 'TREVOR NUNN'S PRODUCTION IS SPECTACULAR'.

Advertisement for 'BUILDING A LIBRARY' featuring Staatskapelle and a rather damaged tape of a 1943 Vienna Philharmonic performance. Includes contact information for the music shop.

Advertisement for 'THE TIMES Creme 98' featuring 'CHANGING TECHNOLOGY', 'PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT', and 'EXECUTIVE FASHIONS'. Includes contact number 01923 690665.

Vertical advertisement on the left edge of the page, partially obscured, mentioning 'POP' and 'of Nick Cave'.



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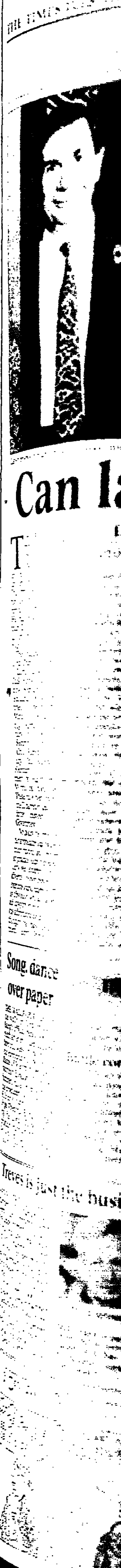
SPRING LECTURE LITIGATION IN THE 21st CENTURY

given by The Honourable Mr. Justice Lightman A judge of the High Court, Chancery Division

The Spring Lecture will be held at 6.00pm Wednesday 3 June 1998 in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

This is a public lecture and admission is free. The Chancery Bar Association welcomes everyone who is interested in the topic. Any enquiries about the lecture should be made to Mary Block, Administrator on 0181-883-1700 or fax 0181-444-2368

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LAW

PERSONAL INJURIES 43
PARKING APPEALS 49



Lawyer-politicians making a good impression: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, Harriet Harman, Social Security Secretary, Jack Straw

Can lawyers manage?

David McIntosh takes a look at how the legal profession is performing in a Labour Government

Tony Blair and his ministers are doing their best to ensure that the practice of law and the perception of lawyers will change for good. The Prime Minister's esteem for lawyers is obvious. One himself, he married another. He has rewarded no fewer than 12 lawyers with ministerial or ministerial assistant roles.

equipped of all of his ministers to chair a record number of government committees and to fulfil, Cardinal Wolsey-like, a much broader role, with considerable political overtones, than did the rest of his distinguished predecessors. Never before have so many lawyers been so visible in pivotal roles in a British government. Nor has there been a better opportunity to show that lawyers can manage and administrate as well as advise and represent. And undoubtedly it has been grasped with enthusiasm — not least by Lord Irvine. He was once instructed, now he instructs.

his own cause. Otherwise, surely, with his cleverness he would not be constantly suffering such a bad press. So far, Lord Irvine has proved that practice at the Bar, not political presentation or people management, is his forte. He is not alone. Harriet Harman, has also faltered by failing to prove that her consumer rights background as a solicitor has equipped her presentationally or perhaps otherwise for senior ministerial office.

fire over legal aid reforms, will continue to impress. Then the stock of lawyers in the Government will rise. But what of us in private practice? Can we enhance our reputations by showing that we are capable of mastering the change which the requirements of modern society, with more than a helping hand from the Government, is imposing on us? Just like Mr Blair's lawyer-ministers, we are being tested by a new environment and overzealous and not always entirely well thought-out reforms that affect the availability of legal aid to the impecunious; the widening of rights of audience (a threat to the Bar); the opening up of business at present reserved to lawyers through, for example, the likelihood of permitting multidisciplinary practices (some of which are bound to be accountant-led); and the basis on which lawyers are taxed. The changes that confront us — even allowing for some mitigation of their final effect — will alter the overall shape of the legal profession. Within a few years, the number of barristers in private practice is likely to drop significantly with some redeploying as solicitor-advocates. And the pre-

sent number of solicitors in private practice is unlikely to increase markedly. Fewer solicitors will be needed to manage and play prominent roles in law firms. They will be adapting to client demands for a less intensive lawyer service, as Lord Woolf's civil court reforms limit the amount of time expended on litigation and as new technology makes the law less private-dependent. If we private practitioners are unable to adapt to all of this, the reputation of lawyers in general will plummet. It is the responsibility of the Law Society and the Bar Council to strive to make the threatened reforms workable for the benefit of our clients and for us — and for us all to rise to the occasion and visibly adapt to them. Only then will the major changes that are coming prove to be the catalyst for an improved public perception of the legal profession.

A return to some old-fashioned rules

The new proposals for restorative justice — Jack Straw's three Rs of restoration and apology to the victim, reintegration into the law-abiding community and responsibility on the part of offenders and their parents — are as old as civilised humanity itself. Primitive societies shamed offenders into acceptable behaviour and no doubt the first Justices of the Peace sat on their 'benches' under a tree. A return to this version of justice has been growing over the past few years as police have gone back to the streets as keepers of the peace rather than solely law enforcers. The biggest boost to restorative justice happened when an Australian policeman came to England two years ago from New South Wales to teach members of 60 police forces about the value of restorative interventions. Involving offenders, their families and their victims, he was echoing the social control practised by Aboriginal tribes. The experiment, started in 1991, led to a 50 per cent reduction in court cases and a 95 per cent compliance on behaviour by offenders.

"We think it is very exciting trying to bring reparation to the fore and consider the needs of the victim," says Steve Richards, the manager of the community sentence team in Hackney, East London, who set up a work experience project for persistent young offenders four years ago. From their earnings they compensate their victims and the scheme is working well. It includes a teacher who can link the offenders in with the education system, training and work. Mr Richards adds: "Better communication is essential. There has never been a clear overall plan and an overall body controlling it. The local authorities are charged with setting up steering groups and ensuring that everyone is in on it. I hope that all the good practice can be put together. The proposed youth offending teams could make all the difference since they should include representatives from police, probation, social services, youth justice, education, health and local crime prevention initiatives. As it is we believe we can start running reparation orders and action plans orders within eight weeks of the Crime and Disorder Bill becoming law." According to Mr Richards, Hackney is positively "buzzing" with crime prevention initiatives, the latest being a new victim offender conferencing scheme set up three months ago with the adjoining borough of Lambeth. "It is being run by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) and will be crucial to reparation schemes."



PAULA DAVIES

If restorative justice seems to be all the rage now, it is all the more surprising given the "lock 'em up and throw away the key" enthusiasm of the early Nineties. Many of us were horrified to see resources taken away from community interventions and suggestions for boot camps à la US. To follow the example of a country that spends more on its prisons than education would have been appalling. Yet, according to Vivien Stern, who was director of Nacro between 1977 and 1996, that is the way the world is going. In her new book, A Sin Against the Future, she writes of prison populations doubling or tripling and that, for certain groups, the likelihood that they will grow up to be prisoners is now more certain than that of their becoming graduates. She highlights the dangers we face if imprisonment becomes "big business" and the possibility of health and education being starved of resources in order to support a huge prison population. In fact, she and we may be lucky if restorative justice can be made to work. A Sin Against the Future (Penguin Books, £8.99), by Vivien Stern

Song, dance over paper

THE WALLPAPER adorning the walls of Lord Irvine of Lairg's official residence is to reach an even wider audience later this week in the salubrious surroundings not of the Palace of Westminster but in southeast London. The manufacturers have given a roll to the producers of Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe at the Bob Hope Theatre, Epsom. Playing the Lord Chancellor is amateur thespian Brian Butler, who by day is deputy director of communications at

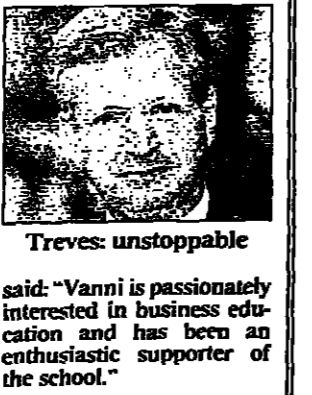
the Home Office. The arrival of the paper will allow Butler to update the jokes. Battle commences SOLICITORS in England and Wales had better brace themselves for another contested election for their leaders. David McIntosh, senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, the City law firm, is to stand for deputy vice-president, challenging Martin Mears's one-time partner, Robert Sayer.

Mr McIntosh, who has made a name for his outspoken views on the need for solicitors to be upfront and open about their charges and his firm's costs protocol, thinks the time is right. "This coming year," he says, "the issues will be civil litigation and solicitors' professional indemnity insurance. Those are the two areas in which I have experience and where I think I have a real contribution to make."

Mr McIntosh, whose 500-strong firm is the only law firm to be included in the Top 100 UK Employers and Top 100 UK Companies of the Future, has also made a name for his equal opportunities policies. The firm has a career structure for paralegals. Mr Sayer said: "I find this very sad. We should be working together, not wasting time infighting."

Treves is just the business

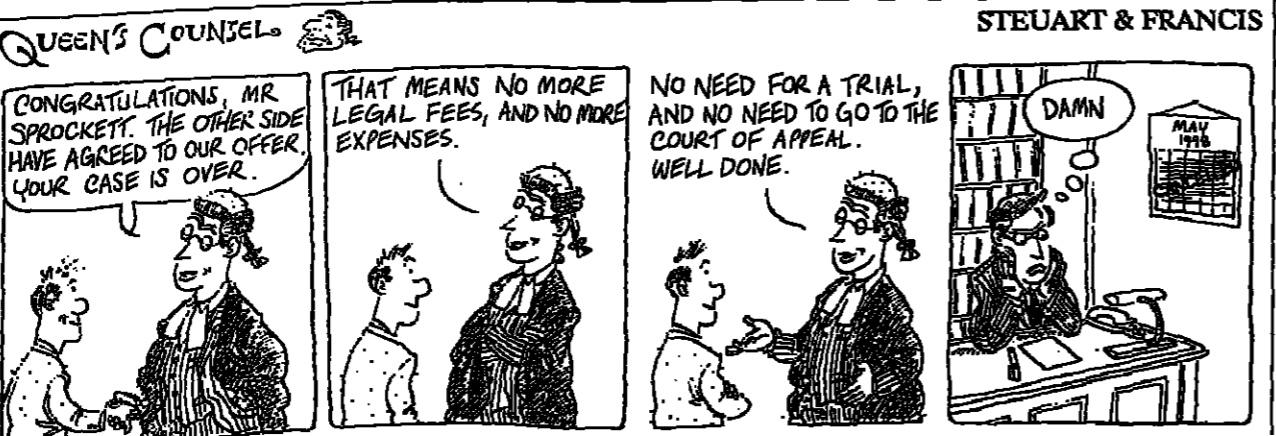
VANNI TREVES, senior partner of Macfarlanes, seems unstoppable with new appointments. As well as having the chairmanship of Channel 4 Television, he is to become the new chairman of the governing body of the London Business School. Treves, who from April 1999 will step down as senior partner of Macfarlanes though remaining a full partner, succeeds Lord Sainsbury of Turville at the school. The Dean, John Quelch,



Treves: unstoppable

said: "Vanni is passionately interested in business education and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the school." Great memories NEVER let it be said that Her Majesty's judges are anything but eclectic in their friendships. On being told at a recent hearing in the Family Division that Sir Edward Cazalet was to adjourn his court from 11.30am to 1.30pm so he could attend a memorial

service, the assorted lawyers, professionals and members of the public assumed that it must be to remember a luminary of the legal world. He did apologise when court resumed but there was some surprise that the service had been for the satirist John Wells. And there was a raised eyebrow or two as some at court had got up at 4.30am to travel to London for the hearing. Legal lessons THE Law Society and Institute of Legal Executives have launched the first National Vocational Qualification in legal practice. The NVQ, which combines vocational expertise with a written test, will be a degree-level qualification based on one of eight areas of law ranging from conveyancing to criminal litigation. There are 2,500 paralegals in private practice but most have no formal qualification. The Legal Action Group has embarked on its search for a replacement for its high-profile director Roger Smith, who is leaving this summer to become education and training director at the Law Society. The group is advertising the post at £35,000 — a drop in the ocean in comparison with the sort of salary lawyers in the private commercial sector can command. SCRIVENOR



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مكتبة من الاسس

Edward Fennell on how athletes and sponsors go about settling their differences

When the sporting crown slips

The outcome of Alan Shearers' "boot in the face" case is still unclear. But as the experience of other sportsmen and women has shown, breaking the rules can be costly. When Michelle Smith, the triple Olympic medal-winner, faced the possibility of being banned from swimming after a drugs test, her first move was to reach for her lawyer and threaten to take the case "all the way" to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland.



Sporting controversy: Newcastle and England star Alan Shearer. Irish swimmer Michelle Smith



might expect, athletes try to water down these restrictions as much as they can. Mr Burdon-Cooper says. Even a drop in performance may affect the contract. Mr Breen says: "A kit manufacturer does not want to see a player he has sponsored dropped from the first team. It sends out the wrong message."



Authors Kinston and Leslie

Voyage of frivolous discoveries

LITIGATION is a mystery. And it remains that way because lawyers tend — as Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, recently said — to use shorthand. This is not to keep sacred knowledge within the circle of the initiated, but from force of habit and for ease of reference. What does the ordinary person think, Lord Bingham asked, when he hears a word such as "discovery" used in a completely alien sense?

A new book aims to demystify legal jargon

Or something described as "frivolous" when it does not seem funny? Lord Bingham was launching a new book written by two partners at Travers Smith Braithwaite, Jonathan Leslie and John Kingston, which aims to be a non-technical guide to litigation. The book was first published in 1996 as a marketing tool for the

authors' clients. But it proved so successful that it was taken up by LLP, the publishers of the Loyds Law Reports. "One of the problems commercial clients have is to understand legal advice," Jonathan Leslie says. As well as clients, the book is aimed at non-specialist lawyers, forensic accountants and even

student lawyers. "There may be trainee lawyers in a litigation department who are doing an Anton Pillar order and would find it useful to read this," John Kingston says. The book has been revised to take on board Lord Woolf's forthcoming civil justice reforms. A further edition is expected once the reforms have come into effect. FRANCES GIBB

'We all want to make life better'

Ian Walker describes his role as president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. Grania Langdon-Down reports

The logic behind some of the Government's legal aid reforms is "unfathomable", according to Ian Walker, who took over as president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) last week. "Nobody is against reform," he says, "we all want to make things better. But instead of thinking, consulting and then deciding on a course of action, the Government decides, consults, then thinks and then has to back-track."

For instance, it was told that legal aid in personal injury cases, when looked at in the round, actually makes a profit for the Government. What do they do? They abolish it. The logic behind it is unfathomable. Mr Walker, 48, is a partner in Russell Jones and Walker, a 40-partner law firm with offices in London, Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle. He was exasperated by the Government's recent publication of a list of the top 40 "earners" from criminal and civil legal aid, a move seen by many lawyers as a way of securing popular support for its legal aid reforms.

He said APIL, which has 4,000 members, believes legal aid should be retained for those who could not afford to pursue their personal injury claims any other way. While conditional "no-win, no-fee" agreements appeared to be popular with clients who had used them and were a way of helping those on middle incomes, they could not replace legal aid. Law firms, which will be under increasing pressure from tax changes and the new regime of fixed cost, fast-track cases, "simply could not carry the burden" of the disbursements, such as medical reports under "no-win, no-fee" agreements. "I think the Government now

realises the system it is putting in place is simply not going to work — which is why it has said in the consultation document that it is going to reserve powers to look at other methods of funding." Mr Walker is also concerned that some unqualified and unregulated claims assessors are jumping on the bandwagon by offering seemingly attractive compensation packages to accident victims. "The fact that people are going to claims assessors means we haven't got our message right yet," he says. "People are still frightened of lawyers and think we are expensive and unapproachable, and we have a big job on our hands to correct that impression."

Another worry is the influence of insurers in allocating cases where the claimant has legal expenses insurance. One partner in a Midlands firm had to use another firm to handle his claim or lose his cover. In addition, some lawyers believe some of the big insurers were restricting their list of approved solicitors to a very small number of firms, which meant claims being handled far away from a client's home. As president, he aims to focus training on small local firms to ensure that they have the expertise to do the work. "I also want us to promote a change in the litigation culture. If you talk to the insurance industry, we agree on what is wrong with the process — it is often too aggressive things are dealt with too slowly, people withhold information which could have promoted settlement."

"We should be starting out with the aim of improving our client's quality of life, getting early rehabilitation, retraining, a new or adapted home and then settling the claim." Another of Mr Walker's aims is to help members through the information technology "maze." "There is so much I want to achieve," he says, "I am not sure a year will be long enough."



Ian Walker

Advertisement for Garfield Robbins, a law firm with offices in London and Sydney. It features several job openings: TAX (2 to 6 years qualified), BANKING - IN-HOUSE (1 to 4 years qualified), SENIOR SHIPPING LAWYER (5 years + qualified), PRIVATE CLIENT (Head of Department), OIL AND GAS LAWYER - IN-HOUSE (6 years + qualified), ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (0 to 2 years qualified), INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (to £45,000), and INTERNATIONAL TRADE (to £20,000). The ad includes contact information for Andrea Melnick, Jonathan Wabinsky, and Tanja Forster.

Advertisement for Laurence Simons International Legal Recruitment. It features several job openings: IN-HOUSE CONSULTANT - INTERNATIONAL ROLE, Banking Lawyers, In-House Moves, Trusts and Fiduciary Services, Derivatives lawyers, Compliance Officer, and Compliance. The ad includes contact information for Laurence Simons at Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA.

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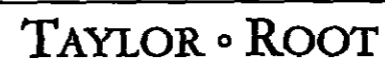
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12 NEW SQUARE

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PROPERTY LIT LEEDS
Cross-Pennine property litigation team of substantial commercial firm requires specialist property litigator at the 1-5 year qualified level. This is an opportunity to handle work of the highest calibre within a small, successful and friendly team which continues to succeed. You should be resourceful and outgoing. An excellent salary and benefits package is offered. (Ref: 201677)

COMM LIT NEWCASTLE
Large Newcastle firm seeks commercial litigator with 1-3 years' exp. A sound knowledge of the White Book and advocacy skills required to handle a diverse and highly challenging caseload. On offer is excellent remuneration and a well structured career path with one of the North East's most talked about firms. (Ref: 225023)

SHIPPING LIT LIVERPOOL
One of the largest and most highly regarded shipping practices outside London now has a rare opportunity for a junior litigator to join its impressive practice. With 1-3 years' good quality experience (wet or dry), you will be provided with work of the highest quality within a supportive and proactive environment. (Ref: 200777)

PROP INDEMNITY LIVERPOOL
Unrivalled opportunity with one of the region's litigation giants has arisen within their respected professional indemnity team. Acting on behalf of a wide range of different professionals, you should have 1-5 years' exp, possess a down-to-earth attitude and good team skills, as well as strong technical ability. (Ref: 225051)

CONSTRUCTION LIT LEEDS
Leading construction practice seeks senior construction lawyer for key strategic role. Working closely with other partners within the national team, you will deal with both contentious and non-contentious matters (with a bias towards the former). The firm is seeking someone with a proactive approach and the personality to exploit existing, and develop new, contacts. (Ref: 215558)

INSOLVENCY LIT LEEDS
Specialist insolvency litigator, 3 years+ qualified, sought to join major commercial firm with an extensive network of national offices. You should have proven marketing skills and be a team player. A strong reputation in the sector is particularly sought but a following is not essential. (Ref: 204374)

FINANCE LIT MANCHESTER
Well known Manchester firm with substantial national presence is interested in applications from specialist finance litigators to join its market leading department. Clients include a range of high street cleaners, building societies and factoring houses. All levels up to partner considered. (Ref: 227098)

INQ COMM LIT LEEDS
Market leader involved in an ever increasing number of the most prestigious commercial disputes both regionally and nationally now has a rare opportunity for a September 1999 qualified to join the team. Training at a City or well known regional firm will be an advantage. (Ref: 228161)

For further information in complete confidence please contact Jenelle Mills, Lindsey Sandford, Bernadette Nolan or Andrew Russell at ZMB North on 0161 238 4908 (01200 442501 evenings/weekends) or write to them ZMB North, Recruitment Consultants, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3JF. Confidential fax 0161 238 4910. E-mail: jenelle.mills@zaragroup.com ZMB North, a Zarag Group Company.

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Please write, enclosing a curriculum vitae to Mrs Lynda Neal, Senior Personnel Manager, Lovell White Durrant, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY or alternatively you may contact our advising consultant Yvonne Smyth on 0171 523 3838 or write to her at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171 523 3839. Email: yvonne.smyth@zaragroup.com Closing date: 9 June 1998.

- Beijing Brussels Chicago Ho Chi Minh City Hong Kong London Moscow
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ATTORNEYS US FORTUNE 50 MULTINATIONAL

Our client is a household name IT multinational who now require highly skilled and business-orientated lawyers to join as members of the Europe, Middle East & Africa Law Department based in Stuttgart, Vienna and Zurich. These positions are for internationally minded lawyers and offer career prospects which may be realised in Europe or elsewhere. All positions require lawyers with at least 2 years relevant experience gained from either a well-known international law firm or other multinational.

STUTTGART (Region Central HQ)

These are exciting opportunities for German lawyers to provide legal support and advice to business operations throughout Central, Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS. This will involve advising all levels of staff on the legal and ethical implications of short and long range plans and policies, as well as in daily operations. The workload will be extremely broad and encompass joint ventures, complex contracts, corporate restructurings, labour law, EU and competition law, systems outsourcing/facilities management and software acquisition and marketing.

ZURICH

This is an opportunity for a Swiss qualified lawyer to join a small legal team handling both national and international corporate and commercial legal issues, tax, property, personnel and health and safety law. You should be a team and results orientated lawyer and capable of handling a stimulating workload.

VIENNA

This requirement would suit a Czech or Hungarian qualified lawyer with broad corporate and commercial skills. The workload will be similar to that described above and offers the opportunity to join the fast-growing Austrian operations.

To find out more about these opportunities, please contact Naveen Tuli.

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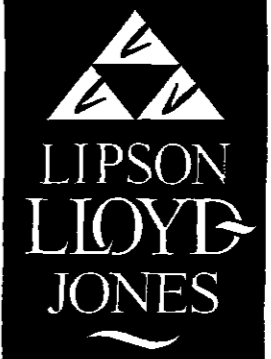
Q. Do you want to be at the centre of an important and developing global market place?

If you answered yes to both questions, read on.

Our client, a City based institution with a high profile legal department, seeks an additional team member with 2-5 years' post-qualification experience gained, ideally, with a City firm.

You will be responsible for the conduct of a varied and exciting workload with the emphasis on international regulatory and commercial issues. Those with experience of general corporate and financial matters will be ideally suited.

The role will involve international travel and those with good linguistic skills are preferred. An excellent package is offered, together with the opportunity for considerable career advancement within a growing and vibrant organisation.



To discuss this position in complete confidence, please contact Lucy Boyd, Senior In-House Consultant

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CHANGING PLACES

FINANCE To £90,000
This may be one of the largest US firms in London, but it operates much like a City firm and employs only the best City lawyers. For a corporate finance, project finance, asset finance or general banking lawyer with 0-7 years' exp from a top firm, real prospects come with the fantastic balance. Ref: T38033

ENERGY To £75,000
Your partnership prospects are electrifyingly good at this top 20 City firm, which boasts one of the best energy teams around. Already a market-leader in oil and gas and electricity projects, the team is looking for 2-5 year qualified lawyers as it looks to float to the top of water-related work. Ref: T27797

PROPERTY LITIGATION To £50,000
This well-known City firm is on the up and up at the moment and merger activity that will make it a big player. Its already key property team will just become better, leading to excellent prospects for property litigators with 5+ years' exp who prove their worth at this time of momentous change. Ref: T48320

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL To £55,000
This is an excellent opportunity for a company/commercial lawyer with 1-4 years' exp to join the London office of a major US firm and take on a larger slice of responsibility than is normal at your level. The work and clients will be enjoyably diverse, and you will be well rewarded for your efforts. Ref: T17632

PENSIONS PARTNER To £200,000
You will join the much sought-after partnership of this top 10 City firm as a partner in its small team, so you will be expected to show the personality and ability to market the practice as well as do the work to the firm's exceptionally high standard; but a following is not necessary. Ref: T48255

PROJECT FINANCE To £70,000
This leading US firm has a highly enviable projects practice and is very well established in London. If you are a 3 year qualified projects lawyer, a move to this firm will set you up for life. Outstanding lawyers only. Ref: T24055

CORPORATE PARTNER To £350,000
The London office of the major US firm is a good place to be at any time given its high quality client base. But the corporate lawyer who becomes its first English partner will enjoy fantastic rewards and a very senior role in the practice, which is one of the best among US firms in London. Ref: T48833

CONSTRUCTION To £55,000
This all-round City firm has arguably the strongest reputation of any medium-sized practice, and this is reflected in its renowned construction team, which punches well above its weight. This makes it a good move for a non-contentious construction lawyer with 2-4 years' exp and a strong personality. Ref: T14131

IP/IT/MEDIA To £85,000
If we offered you the chance to get your teeth into a workload that included broadcasting, publishing, trade marks, entertainment and sports, at a top 10 City firm known for looking after its staff, could you turn it down? Not if you have 1-6 years' exp and an ounce of sense, you couldn't. Ref: T40696

PROPERTY To £68,000
After a hugely successful year, now is the time for property lawyers to join the top 20 City firm, especially if you have: 0-2 years' exp and experience of brownfield site acquisition and development; 2-4 years' exp and experience; and 3-4 years' exp in general non-contentious matters. Ref: T28005

FUNDS To £60,000
Working alongside one of the leading names in financial services and funds work at this top 20 City firm, you will gain all the experience you need for a successful career. Perfect for lawyers with 0-4 years' exp who want to work on active investment funds or international financial services matters. Ref: T20732

TELECOMS To £65,000
Calling all IT/telecoms lawyers. If the opening at a top 10 City firm's market-leading IT/telecoms team does not ring your bell, you might as well hang up. It needs 2-4 years qualified IT lawyers - or corporate lawyers keen to move into IT - and telecoms lawyers with EU and UK regulatory experience. Ref: T24532

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alice Shilton, Adrian Fox or Sianwen Hsu (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6082 (0171-395 7017 or 0171-285 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal, Confidential fax: 0171-651 6354.

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For course information telephone The College of Law on: **01483 460382**

Ref: TIMES/98



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To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Sarah King on 0171 404 6649 (evenings/weekends: 0171 404 2039, or write to us, in complete confidence at Egan Janion Recruitment Ltd, 41/43 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR Fax: 0171 404 8017)



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The closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday, 26th May 1998

Interviews will be held on Monday, 8th and Tuesday 9th June 1998

For an information pack and further details contact Mike West, Justices' Chief Executive on 01705 492024.

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Applicants must be practitioners who have completed 12 months' pupillage/traineeship and should apply with a full CV by 2 June 1998 to Douglas Day QC, The General Council of the Bar, 3 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DB for barristers or Suzanne Burn, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL for solicitors. Interviews will take place in June 1998.

The Civil Service Nationality Rules apply to these posts. Further information regarding this - and other enquiries - should be made to Caroline Keely on 0171-936-7255

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THE TIMES TUESDAY
Francis Gibb report
Appeal
LEGAL A
PERSONAL INJURY
WILSON
PRIVATE AND
TAX AND TRU

سكزا بن الاساس

Frances Gibb reports on a quick new way of dealing with parking offences



Towing the line: even wealthy people can become worked up over a £60 fine, for it is often the principle that matters, not the money

Appeals on wheels

Parking penalties probably cause more grief and anger than any other brush people have with the law. But the way the penalties are now enforced in London involves a new, supermarket-style justice system that some see as a prototype for future courts.

London - Winchester, Oxford, High Wycombe, Maidstone and Watford - are preparing to decentralise parking and enforce the new system. Elsewhere, all parking penalties are still criminal offences and as such are processed by magistrates' courts.

Dead sheep and dire warnings from on high

Politicians should check their facts before preaching to the legal profession, says Anthony Scrivener, QC



Unimpressed: Scrivener

In an orchestrated barrage against the legal profession recently, the Government deployed its ultimate weapon: Frank Dobson. It would be unkind to recall Denis Healey's phrase of "being mauled by a dead sheep" - that would overstate the impact of the intervention.

attributing them to one year (despite footnotes). Can you imagine the uproar if the Bar Council made such an error? Luckily the public standing of government is such that we accept such "errors" without even raising an eyebrow.

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RACING: BHB CHAIRMANSHIP STAKES DECIDED TODAY

Bahr carries confident vote in select contest

By Richard Evans RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE three-day May meeting at York, one of the most enchanting in the calendar, begins today...



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

It would be pleasant to think today's deliberations will result in a BHB chairman around whom racing can unite...

Even those closest to the drama cannot predict the result. Supporters of Peter Savill, architect of the Financial Plan, have lobbied assiduously...

Stakes at Newmarket nine days ago.

However, I am keen on the chances of Bahr. Winner of her two starts as a two-year-old with Barry Hills...

RICHARD EVANS

Nag: BAHF (3.10 York) NB: Return Of Amin (3.40 York)

before firing close home. Eight days ago at Doncaster, he stepped up on that run and was unlucky not to win...

A third of an inch of rain fell on the Knavesmire on Monday night and the going is now on the soft side of good...

Gelded and moved to Tim Easterby's yard, the five-year-old made a pleasing reappearance at Caterick...



Double Action, a winner at York last season, returns to the Knavesmire today

Butler John out of service after injury

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

BUTLER JOHN, the national champion point-to-pointer, is out for the season after sustaining a leg injury...

Shake Five, this season's leader with eight successes, is now facing a challenge from another East Anglian horse, St Gregory...

The day's most successful rider was former professional footballer Clive Mulhall, 35, from Clifton Moor, near York...

Pip Jones, with 25 wins, remains seven clear of Shirley Vickery in the race for the national women's title...

Andrew Dalton is two clear of Jamie Jukes in the men's contest after each rode a winner at the Llandelilo...

YORK THUNDERER 2.05 NIGHT CITY (nap) 2.35 Khealas 3.10 Bahr 3.40 Sheltering Sky 4.10 Pipalong 4.40 Sincor

GUIDE TO OUR RACEDAY 103 (12) 0432 6000 TIMES 74 (C) P.F. & S. (MS) R. Refereed & H. R. 10-10 - 8 West (4) 88

2.05 YORKSHIRE LIFE MAGAZINE HANDICAP (3.0, 6.25, 1m 31 150y) (13 runners) 101 (10) 1816-12 LARGESSE 27 (0.6.5) (MS) R. McCreagh...

3.10 TATTERSALLS MUSIDORA STAKES (SHOWCASE RACE) (Group 1) (3-Y-O; 2.27.50m) (1m 21 85y) (4 runners) 301 (3) 5115-1 MIDNIGHT LINE 9 (0.6.5) (HR H. P. Race)...

FORM FOCUS LARGESSE 27 (0.6.5) (MS) R. McCreagh (1m 41, 20th) with Distant (10th) better off 23rd (10y) in York...

2.35 SHEPHERD TROPHY RATED HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £16,425; 1m 21 85y) (11 runners) 201 (1) 013-2 MIDNIGHT LINE 9 (0.6.5) (HR H. P. Race)...

FORM FOCUS Monksford 1164 (2nd of 4) to Michael at 3yo stakes at Nottingham (1m 54y), 2nd previously 3rd of 5 to Doncast Mace at 2yo...

3.40 GUILBERT OXFORD RATED HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE) £10,970 (13 runners) 401 (1) 0300-7 DOSE SPENDOUR 5 (0.6.5) (MS) R. P. Race...

FORM FOCUS Double Splendour best 10y at 10y in 13-yr-old at Newmarket (5), good to soft, Superior Premier 1st 2yo at 2yo in 13-yr-old at Newmarket (5), good to soft...

4.10 EBF NOVICE FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O; £7,245; 5f) (8 runners) 101 (1) 013-2 LARGESSE 27 (0.6.5) (MS) R. McCreagh (1m 41, 20th) with Distant (10th) better off 23rd (10y) in York...

4.40 WORLD OF RACING EXHIBITION CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O; £9,400; 1m 51 85y) (5 runners) 601 (3) 012-3 AMSTERDAM 14 (0.6.5) (MS) R. McCreagh (1m 41, 20th) with Distant (10th) better off 23rd (10y) in York...

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Redcar 2.15 (5) 1. RED CHARGER (G. Carr, 5-4) 2.15 (5) 2. BERRY (G. Carr, 5-2) 3.20 (5) 1. BLUE DIAMOND (G. Carr, 5-1) 1.40 (5) 1. ALDO RAN 4 (M. J. Williams, 5-1) 1.40 (5) 2. FERGUSON (M. J. Williams, 5-1) 2.20 (5) 1. BLUE DIAMOND (G. Carr, 5-1) 2.20 (5) 2. BERRY (G. Carr, 5-2) 3.20 (5) 1. BLUE DIAMOND (G. Carr, 5-1) 1.40 (5) 1. ALDO RAN 4 (M. J. Williams, 5-1) 1.40 (5) 2. FERGUSON (M. J. Williams, 5-1)

HEREFORD THUNDERER 1.50 NATIVE BREAK JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; £2,180; 2m 3f 110y) (7 runners) 1.50 (1) 1. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1) 2.42 (1) 2. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1) 3.40 (1) 3. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1) 4.40 (1) 4. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1) 5.40 (1) 5. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1) 6.40 (1) 6. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1) 7.40 (1) 7. ISLAND SAILOR (G. Carr, 5-1)

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WINDSOR 2.05 NIGHT CITY (nap) 2.35 Khealas 3.10 Bahr 3.40 Sheltering Sky 4.10 Pipalong 4.40 Sincor

5.25 HARDEN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div 1) £1,228; 2m 10 (12) 014 JOHN BUSH 17 (0.6.5) (MS) R. P. Race

RECORDED CALL BY ROBERT FLEMING & CO. MATEL ACCOUNTING

WOODWORTHY RUGBY UNION Stewart's fortunes starting to turn the corner FROM KEVIN EASON IN BARCELONA JACKIE STEWART will lead an inquest today into the performance of his team in the Spanish Grand Prix...

WOODWORTHY RUGBY UNION THE problems came to a head on the first lap of the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola two weeks ago, when Magnussen crashed into Barrichello in front of 100,000 spectators...

WOODWORTHY RUGBY UNION FIXTURES University match 11.30, second day of three THE PARIS: Oxford University v Worcester

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND TOUR PARTY SEVERELY DEPLETED BY ABSENCE OF LEADING PLAYERS

Woodward may hand captaincy to Dawson

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

WHEN Clive Woodward picked the first team of his tenure as England coach against Australia last November, he chose five newcomers, a reshaped back row and a half-back combination that had not played international rugby together before. He will be going through much of the same exercise today, when he announces his tour party to play seven games in the southern hemisphere during June and July.



Dawson could today be named as the England captain for the demanding summer tour of the southern hemisphere

Two older hands have made a bid for recognition, too: Ben Clarke, a Lion in New Zealand in 1993, has played all season at blind-side flanker for Richmond while Steve Ojomoh, having moved from Bath to Gloucester, has rediscovered his most rumbustious form. These are players who may have thought that international rugby was passing them by and the opportunity to show that it should not be a powerful motivating factor.

Burns fit to lead England

By David Hands

ENGLAND'S crown will come under severe threat in Amsterdam this afternoon, when they meet New Zealand in a semi-final of the third women's World Cup tournament. But they will be buoyed by the presence of Gill Burns, their captain, who has recovered from injury, and spurred on by their humiliation at the hands of the New Zealanders last August.

They are also benefiting from nearly three weeks together, having spent a week at Lilleshall before travelling to Holland. Two comfortable pool matches, against Sweden and Canada, were followed by the demanding physical encounter with Australia on Saturday, which England won 30-13, scoring five tries, though both Burns and Helen Clayton sustained ankle injuries.

"All the talk is about the All Blacks, just as in 1994 it was about the US" Steve Peters, the England coach, said. "But we're world champions and intend to stay that way." If England are to reach a third successive final they lost to the United States in 1991 and beat them in 1994, much credit will go to the tactical direction given by Emma Mitchell, the Saracens scrum half. Mitchell will take over the captaincy if Burns has to leave the field.

HOCKEY

Build-up to Utrecht enters last straight

By Sydney Friskin and Cathy Harris

THE England men's team face a strong challenge from New Zealand at Milton Keynes today, and again on Thursday, in the final stages of their preparation for the World Cup, starting in Utrecht, Holland, on May 21. New Zealand beat England 5-1 in the Azlan Shah tournament in Ipoh, Malaysia, two months ago and went on to defeat Germany 3-2 at a stage when the Germans had already qualified for the final.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Leeds fail to make cut in bid for record

Expectations of a record Super League crowd for the top-of-the-table game between Leeds Rhinos and Wigan Warriors on Friday have been dashed. The capacity at Headingley, which attracted a crowd of 40,175 for a league match against Bradford in 1947, was cut from 27,500 to 18,000 by safety officers yesterday. With both teams boasting 100 per cent records, the game was expected to topple the crowd record of 20,429 that saw Wigan's home match against St Helens two years ago.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

ONE ESSEX COURT
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With the proposed expansion of One Essex Court...

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 (PART 1)
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 (PART 1)
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 (PART 1)

Are golfers mad?
TEE TIME.
NEW SIX-PART SERIES STARTS TONIGHT 8PM, REPEATED SUNDAYS 1.40PM.
4

Stewart's fortunes starting to turn the corner

FOOTBALL

Zola confident of winning race to be fit for final

By Our Sports Staff

CHELSEA were yesterday given some welcome news before their departure to Sweden for the Cup Winners' Cup final tomorrow night.

that the club avoids the perils of a struggle against relegation next season.

look at the possibilities of being successful.

Kendall underlined that Everton have to improve their credibility to compete for the best talent.

However, he admitted that one of the main problems that he faces is convincing leading players that they can fulfill their ambitions at Goodison Park.

Kendall said: "Last summer



Zola: recovering

Zola sustained the injury in the FA Carling Premiership game against Liverpool two weeks ago and was sent back to Italy for specialist treatment.

If he successfully comes through further sessions in Sweden today and tomorrow, he will partner Gianluca Vialli, the player-manager, in the Chelsea attack at the Rasunda Stadium.

Zola said: "It seems to be OK now. The injury has improved a lot in the last few days and now I'm a lot more confident that I will be fit."

we wanted Paul Ince, we wanted the other top players we went for and the fans wanted to see that type of quality here.

"They expected big names and big money spent and we missed out. But what happens at a club in our position is that when there are players available of that quality then there is competition and then you lose out."

Batty was shown the red card by David Elleray for allegedly punching Garry Flitcroft.

"Why would I want to do anything which would get me sent off in the last game of the season, in a match which did not mean anything to Newcastle and a week before the FA Cup Final? It's just crazy... a joke. I just wanted to get the ball."

Arse Wenger, the Arsenal manager, was named the FA Carling Premiership manager of the year yesterday.

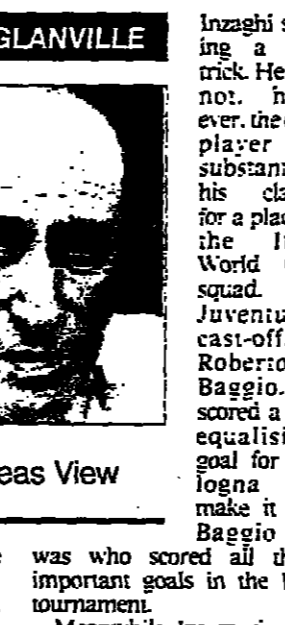


Bobic, the Stuttgart striker, beats Raphael Wicky, of Werder Bremen, at the weekend but he was later sent off

Guivarc'h relishes prospect of taking goals to Newcastle

There has been good and bad news for VfB Stuttgart's leading goal-scorer, Fredi Bobic.

my memory," Lachor said. Guivarc'h, who has scored 46 goals in 56 games this season, appears to be on his way to Newcastle United.



Overseas View

was who scored all those important goals in the 1994 tournament. Meanwhile, Internazionale, in second place, lost 2-1 away to Bari.

Germany recall Matthaus

LOTHAR MATTHAUS, Germany's most-capped international, has been recalled for the World Cup finals after a four-year absence from the national team.

Klinsmann said yesterday: "If you are approaching a big tournament like the World Cup then you should forget about personal things."

into the plans of Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach. Three Wimbledon players are struggling to fit for their respective countries in the finals.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS table with columns for Date, Company name, Venue, Adjusted Score

AMERICAN FOOTBALL table with columns for NFL Europe, Athletics, County Championships

BOWLS table with columns for Eastern Counties League, Midlands Counties Championship, Bradford League

GOLF table with columns for Duluth, Sunningdale, Women's National League

ICE HOCKEY table with columns for National League (NHL), Lacrosse, Motor Racing

CITROEN GOLF MONTHLY advertisement with Citroen logo and contact information

BASEBALL table with columns for American League, National League, Basketball Association

CRICKET table with columns for Bradford League, Central Lancashire League, Sunningdale

REAL TENNIS table with columns for Wimbledon, Wimbledon Ladies, Wimbledon Men

SHOOTING table with columns for ISSLEY, ISSLEY, ISSLEY, ISSLEY

WORD-WATCHING advertisement with crossword puzzle and word search

CRICKET: BATTLE-WEARY TOURING TEAM HAVE FIVE MATCH DAYS TO PREPARE FOR INTERNATIONALS

South Africans climb back on to the treadmill

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

YEAR by year, the pace of life for the modern cricketer grows more frenzied. The South Africans arrived in London yesterday, fresh — if that is the correct word — from a winter of 11 Test matches and 22 one-day games. Now, they have only five match days to prepare for a return to the international stage.

This extraordinarily cramped preparation was largely of the South Africans' choosing. Less than three weeks ago, they were completing an extended home season by winning yet another limited-overs tournament and it was felt that a break, however brief, was essential for players embarking on a 15-week tour of England.

The risk factor, however, is immense. On Thursday week at the Oval, South Africa face England in the first of three Texaco Trophy matches and, while their winter programme may ensure they are match-fit, they cannot hope to be fully acclimatised.

Hansie Cronje, the captain, admitted as much. "Australia found it a bit of a problem here last year," he said at Lord's yesterday in an understated reflection of the fact that the best team in the world lost all three one-day internationals and the first Test after an inadequate lead-in time. South Africa's is shorter still.

"We need the weather to hold out and be kind to us," Cronje added. "We know we have to hit some balls quickly, to get into things straight away." To emphasise the fact, the 17-man party began their first practice session only hours after stepping off the aircraft. They will have two further practice days at Lord's before starting a three-day game at Worcester on Thursday.

The 1994 South Africans, the first to tour here in three decades, played six first-class fixtures before the Test series started. Their successors have only two but Cronje, while concerned by this, said the circumstances are different.

"In '94 we came with only a handful of players who had any English experience," he said. "That is the main difference with this side. We have a much better idea of what the conditions will be like."

England's management will be anxious that conditions on the Test grounds should not suit the South Africans' strength, the pace bowling of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, both of whom have benefited from playing county cricket with Warwickshire.

The fact that the first Test, starting on June 4, will be at Warwickshire's Edgbaston ground is no disadvantage to South Africa; Donald, to whom the county is a second home, has spent time there in the past week after arriving ahead of his team-mates.

Donald's experience and effectiveness at Edgbaston is a concern for England, whose chairman of selectors, David Graveney, joked yesterday: "I hear he's been spending a lot of time with the groundsman. We'll have to try and put a stop to that conversation!"

England, plainly, would prefer to play on dry, true surfaces that diminish the threat of the new ball, but Donald and Pollock will not easily be conquered. Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, was generous in his praise of them yesterday and gave a smug nod of expectation as he said: "I'm looking forward to the day when they strike their best form together."

English experience, this time with Middlesex, has also helped Jacques Kallis, who is expected to bat at No 3 in a batting order of fragile tendency. Cronje and his vice-captain, Gary Kirsten, will be the other senior players.

Of the newcomers, Makhaya Ntini, the first black South African to play Test cricket, Roger Telemachus, who is coloured, and the flame-haired Mornantau Hayward are among the support bowlers in a party that, initially, may seem oversized.

The shortage of warm-up games means that the South Africans must immediately identify and play their intended international sides. "It's a fair assumption that our probable Test team will play at Worcester," Woolmer said. "We really have no choice." In that admission lay cause for English encouragement.



Ntini, the first black South Africa Test cricketer, gets in some early practice yesterday

Surrey's crown a target for Wasim

By Michael Henderson

IN AN ideal world it would have provided Benson and Hedges, the cup sponsor, with an ideal final, at Lord's on July 11. Instead, Surrey, the holders, and Lancashire, who have won the cup four times — more than any other county — will contest what promises to be a bracing quarter-final at the Oval on May 27.

Surrey start as favourites by right. They made very short work of their group matches, winning all five by a mile, and have a team packed with good young players. They also have the two England captains, Alec Stewart and Adam Hogg, the best batsman in the land in Graham Thorpe and a well of confidence from which they all draw freely.

Lancashire, however, are the one team that will not be fazed by the prospect of playing in Kennington. Wasim Akram, the great Pakistani, has taken warmly to the task of leading them and they are beginning to find some form in one-day cricket, where their reputation rests.

It is tempting to say that the winners of this tie will win the cup; tempting, but foolish. Yorkshire are also casting a few ripples and Leicestershire did wonderfully well to top the strongest qualifying group, albeit on run-rates.

By a quirk of the draw that makes the competition look silly, Yorkshire play Durham, whom they beat at Headingley last Saturday in the final group game. How on earth two teams can be drawn against each other in successive games in the same competition is a mystery.

At Lord's, Middlesex v Essex is another repeat of a group game, played at Chelmsford, which Middlesex won easily. Under Mark Ramprakash, whose star is firmly in the ascendant, and John Buchanan, the new coach from Brisbane, they are playing with great vigour.

The final game brings together Leicestershire, who won the first final in 1972 under Raymond Illingworth, and Kent, who were the second holders.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Surrey v Lancashire; Leicestershire v Kent; Yorkshire v Durham; Middlesex v Essex. To be played on Wednesday, May 27

Players' support increasing for split championship

By Simon Wilde

PLANS for a two-division county championship could soon be back before the 18 first-class counties after the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) yesterday voted overwhelmingly against the decision of county executives last year to retain a one-tier competition.

Eighty-four per cent of those who attended the PCA's annual meeting at Edgbaston supported two divisions, rejecting arguments that it would limit opportunities for young play-

ers and threaten the future of the weakest clubs. Postal votes from 157 absentees out of the total membership of 415 had yet to be received. Many were playing in second XI games.

"This will help to put the issue back on the agenda and could shift a few minds," one chief executive at a Test-match ground said. "It could be voted on again later this year."

The six clubs on whose grounds Tests are played, plus Worcestershire, supported two divisions when Lord Mac-

Laurin of Knebworth's plans were voted on last September. At that time, much to their annoyance, the players' opinions were ignored. Two thirds were believed to be in favour of two divisions then, so the vote yesterday represented a significant increase.

"We do not want to be ignored again," Matthew Fleming, the PCA chairman, said. "Now we've got to make things happen." Fleming and

other PCA officers will now meet representatives of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Discussions will cover possible structures for a two-division championship and the impact that one would have on the domestic programme. A two-tier system

will be tried in the Axa League next year.

"I am not sure the players understand the significance of two divisions," Peter Edwards, the secretary/general manager of Essex, said. "The paper the PCA produced did not spell out the full consequences. It was agreed the present structure should be

given three years. We should not be pressured into changing that."

Some 93 per cent of the members voting yesterday favoured scrapping the "List" system of registering players, and a proposal that the PCA receive ECB funding in line with the counties was approved unanimously.

Hick puts Oxford's bowlers in their place

By Thrasy Petropoulos

THE PARKS (first day of three): Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire have scored 238 for three wickets against Oxford University

GRAEME HICK scored the 97th first-class century of his career yesterday and shared a third-wicket partnership of 210 with David Leatherdale as Worcestershire made full use of the time available to them against Oxford University.

Hick, who scored 164 not out in this fixture last year, barely broke a sweat in cruising to 124 off 132 balls with 19 fours. Leatherdale will resume today three short of his hundred.

Batting initially with exaggerated caution after the loss of two early wickets, Hick and Leatherdale progressed predominantly in boundaries. Leatherdale hit ten of them in his fifty, although needing 97 balls to reach it.

There was a certain inevitability about the relentless stream of fours — 36 were hit in barely two sessions of play — and not a chance was given in the partnership until Hick lazily pulled Garland down long leg's throat. In a day shortened to 53 overs, 181 runs came in the 34 overs bowled after tea.

Oxford, likely to suffer many a long day in the field this summer, were given the perfect start, however, when Philip Weston allowed the third ball of the match to squeeze through his defences. It is questionable who was the more surprised, Weston or the bowler, David Mather.

Vikram Solanki then drove loosely at Salman Khan and offered a catch well taken in the gully. Worcestershire were six for two and Khan had picked up a wicket with his seventh ball in first-class cricket. But celebrations were quickly halted as Hick started to unveil his strokes.

Worcestershire: First Innings
W P C Weston b Mather 0
V S Solanki c Khan b Khan 2
G A Hick c Mather b Garland 124
D A Leatherdale not out 97
A Hills not out 7
Extras (D 4, W 2, NB 2) 8
Total (8 wickets) 238
S R Lampard, S W K Ellis, A Shaver, R D J Pope, M J Greenwood and R J Channon to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-6, 3-216.
BOWLING: Mather 10-4-51-1, Khan 17-1, 75-1, Byrne 5-0-55-0, Lightfoot 7-1-33-0, Garland 5-0-20-1.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: D R Lockhart, J J Parker, C G R Leggat, B W Barnes, J A Clouston, N G Piers, J A G Fulton, R Gordon, I J P Barnes, S Khan, D P Mather.
Umpires: M J Kitchen and K J Lyons.

As reported yesterday, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, appears to have regained his form after his doubtful performance in Linare with an overwhelming speed chess victory in a match against Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster. In today's game from that contest, Kasparov switches sides in a variation of the Sicilian Defence which he has formerly been known to favour as Black. Kasparov's strategy was to acquire the pair of bishops as White, whilst sacrificing his pawn structure. Eventually the world champion broke through on the kingside to deliver a mating attack against the black king.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Veselin Topalov
Sofia, May 1998
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d5
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 e6
6 Bc3 Ng4
7 Bg5 h6
8 Bx4 g5
9 Bg3 Bg7
10 Be2 h5
11 Nf5 Bxf5
12 e3 Qe5
13 Q-0 Bxc3
14 taec3 Oe5
15 Bb1 Nc7
16 Bb7 Ng6
17 Bb1 Kb8
18 h3 h4
19 Bxb8 N4
20 Bc3 Oe5
21 Rb5 Ne5

Diagram of final position
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1 a b c d e f g h

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Watching the opponents' discards can give many clues as to the layout. Brian Jackson, an experienced rubber bridge player, showed me this hand on which he failed to give full weight to West's sequence of discards.

Dealer South North-South Game Rubber Bridge
+AJ75
+QJ2
+843
+782
+1093
+AK943
+J782
+5
+K642
+1065
+AKQ
+A98

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: four of hearts. Jackson opened One No-Trump (16-18) on the South hand, North raised to Two No-Trumps and holding a maximum Jackson went on to Three No-Trumps. West led the four of hearts, which South won in hand with the ten. As only the three of hearts was missing, it was clear that if the lead was not a false-card West could have at most five hearts. (If he had six hearts, the four would be his fifth highest). So Jackson played back a heart. That is often good tactics, forcing the defence to run off their long suit early. West took all of his hearts, on which dummy discarded a diamond and a club. East the jack of clubs followed by the four and three, and declarer two spades. West then led his club, to the king and ace. Now declarer cashed his second club, on which West threw a spade, and then played three rounds of dia-

CORRECTION: In yesterday's column, East's hearts should have been Q 9 and not a singleton queen.

WORD WATCHING
By Philip Howard
CATATHYMIA
a. An Alpine herb
b. Emotionalism
c. A form of schizophrenia
FUMAGINE
a. Smoked ham
b. Shadow painting
c. Honey dew
BATAK
a. A synthetic cloth fibre
b. A Filipino
c. A pirate
ETOURDI
a. Thoughtless
b. Stuffed
c. Astonished
Answers on page 54

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Trading places
As reported yesterday, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, appears to have regained his form after his doubtful performance in Linare with an overwhelming speed chess victory in a match against Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster. In today's game from that contest, Kasparov switches sides in a variation of the Sicilian Defence which he has formerly been known to favour as Black. Kasparov's strategy was to acquire the pair of bishops as White, whilst sacrificing his pawn structure. Eventually the world champion broke through on the kingside to deliver a mating attack against the black king.

WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Deschauer - Meyer, Switzerland, 1952. How did White score an immediate win by combining threats on both sides of the board?
Solution on page 54

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES
FOUR WORLD CUP TRIPS TO BE WON
CALL ANY OF THE HOTLINES NOW FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE ENGLAND OR SCOTLAND PLAY IN FRANCE
The Times, with Lavazza, offers readers the chance to win a pair of World Cup tickets, plus overnight accommodation, meals and transport, to see any one of four first-round matches featuring England and Scotland. There are runners-up prizes of Lavazza World Cup watches, T-shirts and commemorative espresso cups.
TO ENTER simply call the appropriate competition hotline before midnight on Friday, May 15, 1998, with your answer to the math question. Calls cost 50p per minute.
Match 1: Brazil v Scotland, June 10, Paris. Travel by Eurostar, enjoy four nights at Forges-Les-Bains with all meals. Question: Who is the manager of the Scotland World Cup team? Call: 0891 300 365.
Match 2: England v Tunisia, June 15, Marseilles. Stay overnight at the Garvick Hilton. Return flight to Marseilles, with lunch before the game. Question: Who is the manager of the England World Cup team? Call: 0891 300 366.
Match 3: Romania v England, June 22, Toulouse. Fly from Heathrow to Paris, then transfer to Le Patis hotel in Toulouse for overnight stay, with dinner before the game. Question: Which team won the 1966 World Cup? Call: 0891 300 367.
Match 4: Colombia v England, June 26, Lens. Travel by coach on Le Shuttle. Stay overnight at the Hotel Auberge Du Bon Fermier, with dinner before the game. Question: For which World Cup team did Pete play? Call: 0891 300 368.
Competition winners will be selected at random from all the correct entries for each match. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.
THE ITALIANS' FAVOURITE COFFEE
Pick up a small, dark Italian at half-price. If you're a huge fan of real coffee, get your hands on Lavazza. Italy's number one and the official coffee of the World Cup. It's suitable for all coffee makers. And the rich, dark taste will have you going back at full time for more. Lavazza's range comprises 250gm vacuum packs and tins of ground coffee. Qualita Rossa is authentically Italian, a dark and robust blend. Caffe Espresso is a premium blend of Arabica beans with an intensive aroma. Qualita Oro is truly refined for a distinctive but well-balanced cup. Caffe Decaffeinato is a full-flavoured yet smooth smooth decaffeinated blend.
CHANGING TIMES

Aston and Turnford share the honours
et le

Popularity of race is undimmed, Edward Gorman writes Blyth issues third challenge

Less than a year after the conclusion of the last race, the BT Global Challenge is starting up for the third time as Sir Chay Blyth continues to expand and refine his successful formula of sending paying amateur sailors the wrong way round the world.

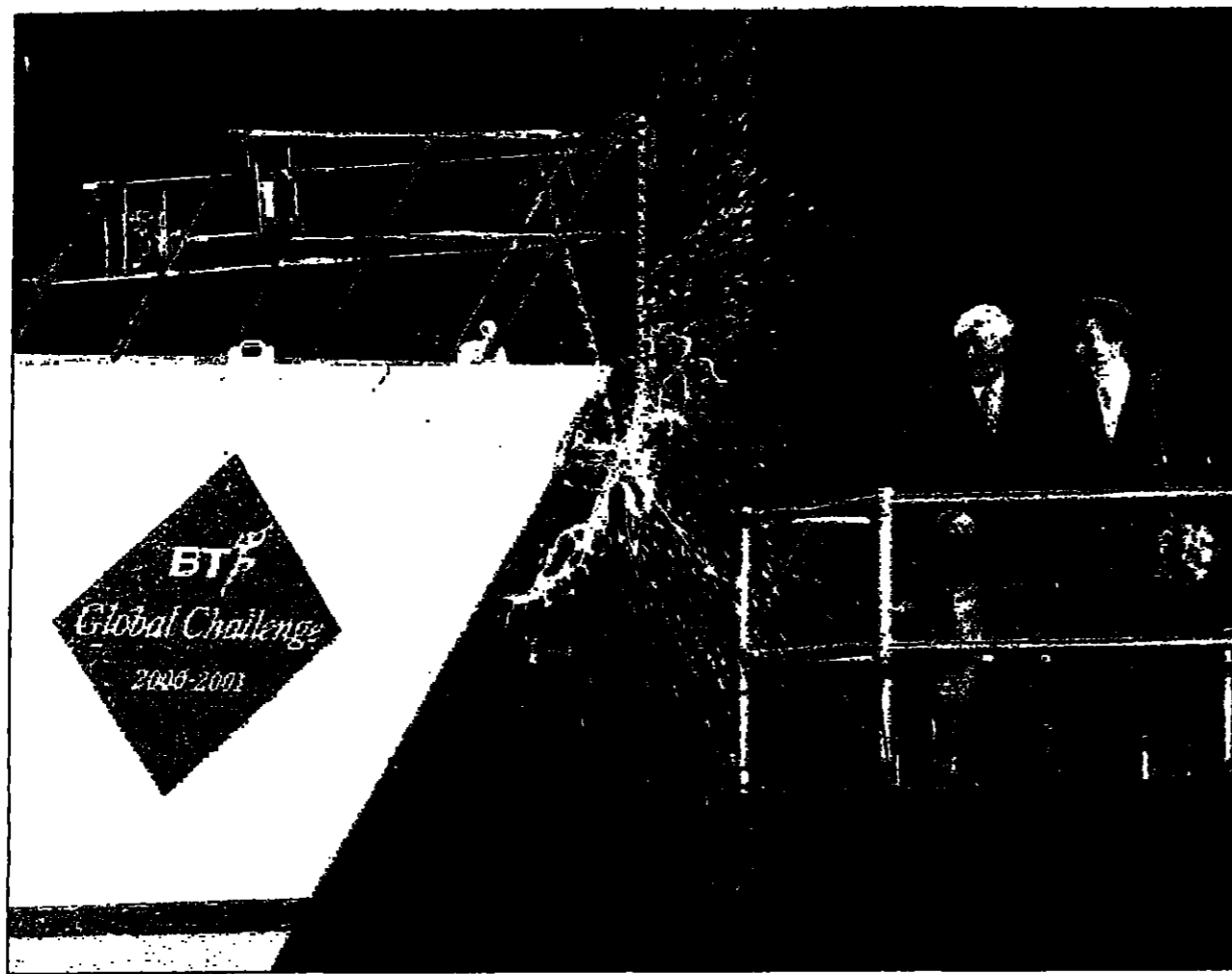
This time the race — which starts from Southampton in September 2000 — is going to be sailed in a new class of yacht, the prototype of which, BT Global Challenge, was officially named by the Princess Royal at Hamble Point Marina yesterday.

The boat is 71ft long, four feet longer than its predecessor, but is lighter and faster than the old boats and should be more fun to sail. It is again made of steel and has been designed by Rob Humphreys to provide robust performance to windward while offering a safe but challenging ride for 17 volunteer crew members, led by a paid skipper.

The main innovation is the use of kit-form construction, with the hull made up of precisely cut steel plates that, in theory at least, can be assembled anywhere in the world. The original aim was to incorporate a number of entries in the next race, which would be built abroad and then sailed to Britain for the start.

However, both this and talk of 25 boats at the start next time has been scaled down considerably. Sir Chay is now aiming at just 15 boats — one more than last time — and is talking of only one boat being built abroad, possibly in the United States or Australia. This may reflect the complexities of exporting a boat in kit form, then re-exporting it back to Britain, and also the difficulty of finding suitable builders overseas.

The prototype has been a very long time in preparation at Devonport Yachts, in Plymouth, sparking rumours of problems with the new construction method. Sir Chay



Sir Chay and the Princess Royal watch as the BT Global Challenge is christened in the traditional way yesterday

denied this and said that the long lead time of more than two years is the result of changing requirements on safety features, such as watertight bulkheads.

The next race will follow largely the same course as the last, except that the American stopover will come first, not last. This time the crews will go to windward across the North Atlantic, almost certainly to Boston, before heading south to Rio de Janeiro, then round Cape Horn to Wellington. From there it will be a short trip to Sydney and then on to Cape Town.

The next BT Global Challenge is almost full already, with just six crewing slots and 25 still available. Many of the new volunteers, who will each pay £25,000 for a full circumnavigation, are people who have been waiting for a berth since before the last race.

There will be a considerable overseas contingent with crew members from Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Japan. Having discovered that skippers taking part in the race for the second time do not respond as enthusiastically to the considerable challenge

that they face as first-timers, Sir Chay is inviting applications from newcomers only for 2000. He already has 60 candidates on his books.

Sponsorship remains the key to the success of the event, however, and, despite the generally healthy economic background, finding corporate backers for each boat remains a tough task. So far Sir Chay has definite commitments from Mitsubishi Electric, a group of eight BT supply companies under the name of Teamwork, and the Isle of Man, which will use the race as a promotion vehicle.

Sir Chay is confident that the next race will be a success. He has no fears that, with ever-increasing numbers of professional round-the-world racers, his amateurs may slip into the margins of a media regarding the event as more adventure-tourism than top-class sport. "We have differentiation," he said, "because of the people involved. If you want to read about yachting at the highest level, you read about the Whitbread. If you want to read about ordinary people facing the challenge and adventure of a lifetime, then you read about us."

TELEVISION CHOICE Bricks and mortar of time

One Foot in the Past
BBC2, 8.00pm

The heritage series continues to come up with gems. "Whispering" Dan Cruikshank has the week's star item, an account of how a medieval priory in Wiltshire was stripped and left as a ruin by none other than the American newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst. It is a tale to make any conservationist shudder and Cruikshank lays it bare in all its terrible detail. A more recent building about to lose its identity is a former health centre in South London. Opened in the 1930s, it was both a pioneering social experiment and architecturally a fine example of what could be done with reinforced concrete, glass and plenty of imagination. It is to be converted into flats. In the celebrity spot Esther Rantzen, who is Jewish, finds spiritual comfort in a Christian house of God, Salisbury Cathedral.

Tea Time
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The manic television presenter Chris Evans seems an unlikely recruit to the ranks of golf enthusiasts but he has been playing the game since the age of nine, once worked as an assistant in a golf shop and is a junior member of the Professional Golfers' Association. He indulges his passion in a six-part series which comes from a different country each week. In programmes to come we join him in Florida and California, in the deserts of Dubai and in Calcutta, which boasts the world's oldest women-only club. He starts in Scotland, the cradle of the game which boasts fine courses in magnificent settings. He meets a Japanese businessman whose dream is to see off at St Andrews, a Scot who has played twice a day for decades whatever the weather, and a priest for whom golf and faith are intertwined.

Timewatch
BBC2, 9.30pm

No amount of revisionism can present the white settlers' treatment of the Aboriginal as anything but a shameful episode, but in re-creating it this film offers several useful glosses. For one thing it does not present a simple condemnation of white behaviour but tries, as any historical exercise



Historical injustice (BBC2, 9.30pm)

should, to judge by the standards of the time. It points out the disease, as much as killing, was responsible for the catastrophic drop in the Aboriginal population and suggests that the native Australians were savage as well as noble. It also gives weight to the attempts of Evangelical Christians to introduce a more enlightened treatment, though concluding that this did little to soften the cruelty of frontier life. Television, so often blamed for society's ills, is given credit for exposing the plight of the Aborigines and helping their campaign for civil rights.

I Dreamed I Won the FA Cup
ITV, 10.40pm, except Scotland

This kaleidoscopic documentary about the 1997-98 FA Cup competition contains very little about Arsenal and Newcastle United, who contest the Final on Saturday, and quite a lot about Wrexham, Town, Cheltenham Town, Reading and many other teams for whom the winning has meant less than the taking part. Action on the field generally comes second to boardroom upheavals, sacked managers and disillusioned fans. The film is not so much a chronicle of the competition as an attempt to capture the flavour of the game at all its levels. Inevitably there is much disappointment. Explorative film-makers who fill the air as Sheffield United step out for their semi-final. They are only 90 minutes from Wembley, but 90 minutes can be a long time in football. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Emerald Green Show
Radio 4, 11.30am

This is not a new series about Ireland but a new comedy series about a fictitious character called Emerald Green (Llewella Gideon), who, in episode one, sets about becoming the hostess of a chat show on a cable television channel. Emerald is an unlikely individual: she is 71, pushy, the black only child adopted by white parents. Emerald gets the job by dint of walking uninvited into the room where the interviews are taking place, having been told that the job involves replacing Esther Rantzen on the BBC. Not quite. But she manages to give the impression that she has roots in the black community and the producers, seeking to reach ethnic minorities, take her on. "She's desperate and she'll do it for nothing."

Burt Bacharach — The Story of My Life
Radio 2, 9pm

Bacharach is 70 this year, which is all the excuse that Radio 2 needs to mount a tribute to the man whose natural constituency is the post-rock Radio 2 audience. If that sounds a narrow definition, I should immediately make it clear that many contemporary rockers, including the New Line, flock to cite the influence of Bacharach, one of the greats of modern music whose compositions, including *Anyone Who Had a Heart* and *Walk on By*, provided a melodic soundtrack to the Sixties and Seventies. Bacharach faded from the spotlight in the Eighties but he is now very much in vogue again, not least because of the growth of radio stations playing music from the era that Bacharach did so much to shape. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Cavell 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.30 The Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Steve Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Hogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Pam Rhodes 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 BT Bacharach: The Story of My Life. Donna Warwick tells the story of the musical director, composer and songwriter from Gene Pley, Jack Jones and Hal David 10.00 East Side Story. Michael Friedland journeys through the cultural melting-pot of New York's Lower East Side. Featuring the songwriters who lived there, or who were influenced by the area. News 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alan Leslie

RADIO 3 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Peter Allen and Eleanor Clivity 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruvet 3.00pm The King's Singers 7.00 News Extra David McNeil presents news and sports round-up, including racing results 7.30 Any Sporting Questions. John Inverdale and a panel of sporting stars answer questions from a live studio audience 8.00 Extra Time. Mark Steel discusses the 1978 FA Cup Final between Arsenal and Manchester United 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastburn 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Strauss (Beim Schlafengehen, Four Last Songs); Tchaikovsky (Marche Slave) 9.00 Masterworks, with Penny Gore 10.30 Artist of the Week: The King's Singers. Joan Bevelwell talks to Brian Kay, Stephen Connolly and Paul Phoenix about the King's Singers, one of the world's most successful vocal groups 11.00 Sound Stories: Great Partnerships, with Richard Baker. The Amadeus Quartet gave their first concert together at the Dartington Summer concert and with Arthur Schnitzler. Their London debut in 1948 and then went on to perform together for nearly 40 years 12.00 Composer of the Week: Hummel 1.00pm The Beatles 3.00pm Concert, Paris Quartet. Franck (String Quartet in D) (1) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under William Conolly and Mervyn Robbins, with Artur Schnitzler. Concert. Paris Quartet. Franck (String Quartet in D) (1) 4.00 Voices. Edward Elgar, tenor, Ian Bostridge, tenor, Julius Drake, piano. Britten (Cantata No 2: Abraham and Isaac; Winter Words) (1) 4.45 Music at the Movies. Tomoyasu Hasegawa as the huge variety of music that makes up the repertoire of the brass band

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 (LW) Vested in the Future. A special to people who have faced a single, life-changing choice. He hears about the dilemma and the implications of the various options, and about living with the consequences 9.30 Going, Going, Gone: The Jersey Marine Auction. A new series of programmes looking at auctions around the country, starting at the annual Jersey Marine Auction, where locals can pick up a cheap oilskin and catch up on local gossip 9.45 (FM) Serials: Bad Land. Jonathan Raban reads his account of America's Midwest (2/5) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 News: Woman's Hour, with Martha Kearney 10.00 News: On the Trail of Butch and Sundance. John Helyar's suspenseful southern Bolivia to uncover the truth behind the legend of the infamous duo 11.30 The Emerald Green Show: Celebrations. See Choice 12.00 (FM) You and Yours 12.57pm Weather 1.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One, with Nicky Clarke 1.30 Full Orchestra. Tommy Pearson presents the quiz in which musicians from Britain's leading orchestras compete against each other 2.00 News: The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Blonde for Danger. Christopher Cazenove stars as "the Gay Baccarat", with Bonnie Langford as his partner 3.00 News: The Exchange: 0171-880 4444 3.30 Let the Rumpus Begin! Michael Rosen reveals the subversive past of classic children's literature. Could it be true that the world's favourite elephant is a political animal? (2/5)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 198 (12.45-5.58am). Television listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNameer.

TENNIS: BRITONS EXPERIENCE CONTRASTING FORTUNES IN FINAL RUN-UP TO FRENCH OPEN

Henman moulds his game on clay

THE vagaries of tennis life were in evidence here yesterday when Greg Rusedski succumbed to an inspired opponent and Tim Henman prevailed against a man who would rather have been anywhere else.

The consequence is that Rusedski returned to Britain last night to lick his wounds, while Henman could look forward to a probable second-round confrontation with Marcelo Rios, the former world No 1.

It was Rusedski's misfortune to come up against Bohdan Ulihrach, an unpredictable journeyman from the Czech Republic who palpably fancied his chances. Rusedski's poor record on clay is no secret: Ulihrach had failed to reach the quarter-finals of any tournament this year and he badly needed a fillip.

He got it here after Rusedski — who served for the first set at 5-3 and had two set points in the second-set tie-break — failed to convert his opportuni-

ties. So Ulihrach prevailed 7-5, 7-6 to consign Rusedski to his third opening-match loss in four clay-court tournaments this year.

Although the Briton maintained that his morale is high, this was his last competitive outing before the French Open. He would have appreciated a longer stay in the splendid splendour of the Foro Italico.

Fabrice Santoro, a quarter-finalist in both Hamburg and Monte Carlo, felt exhausted and had requested leave from his entry here. When that was properly denied, the Frenchman took his own course of self-preservation and Henman won 6-1, 6-0 in 61 minutes of a common cause.

Whatever Santoro's frame of mind, he would have struggled to match Henman yesterday. This was a performance to savour from the Briton, who combined some powerful serving with a rare consistency from the baseline. He was simply too crisp off the ground and too quick about the court.

Henman played with a patience and guile previously

lacking from his efforts on clay this year. "I have hit so many balls in practice that I feel confident I can stay in rallies much longer than usual," he said. "This was a very good win. It gives me a lot of self-belief."

Henman, world-ranked No 17, next plays the winner of Rios and Marzio Martelli, an Italian wild-card entrant ranked No 139 in the world. Should Rios win, as is widely expected, Henman will relish

the opportunity to further his experience against a clay-court master. Rios, seeded No 3 and the defending champion here, can help Henman to climb another rung on the ladder of learning.

There is no good reason why Henman should not adapt to this surface. This is effectively his first full clay-court season and his improvement has been tangible. It is touch and go whether he will be seeded in the French Open, but he may yet make an impression at Roland Garros.

If Rusedski's form has slumped on clay, Jonas Bjorkman, the world No 7, has slumped on all surfaces. His crushing defeat by Filip Dewulf marked the eighth successive tournament in which he has failed to make an impact.

By contrast, Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, is rediscovering his form at the right time. After a quarter-final appearance in Hamburg last week, Kuerten overcame a shocking start to cost Costa Costa, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2. However, Petr Korda, seeded No 2, was overwhelmed by Hicham Arazi, 6-2, 6-4.

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

FROM ALEX RAMSAY IN BERLIN

the opening game. She lost her own service but forged ahead again, converting her fourth break point with a blistering backhand return. This looked like the Capriati of old.

But from then on it was all downhill. Tanasugarn found the timing on her ground strokes, broke to level the score at 3-3 and had only to wait for Capriati to make

mistakes. Rushing her shots and becoming irritated with herself, Capriati lost the first set and slung her racket across the court in disgust after a double fault put her 2-1 down at the start of the second.

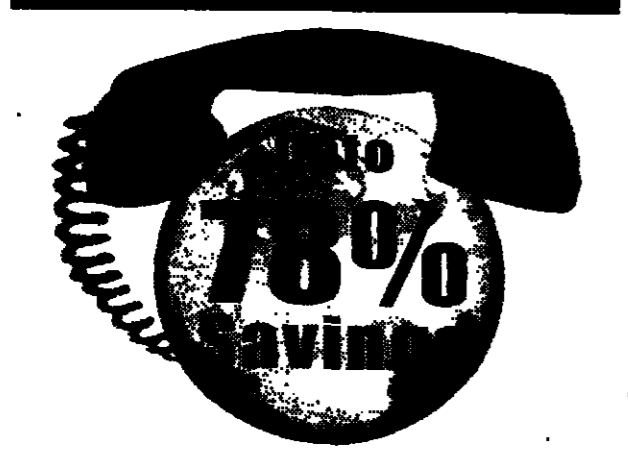
"I'm disappointed and a little fatigued from the qualifying matches," she said. "I'm not happy, but there's nothing I can do about it." Unfortunately for Capriati, she is the only one who can do anything about it and with the French Open looming and her chances of getting a wild card limited, time is running out.

Iva Majoli also has her mind set on Roland Garros. Since she beat Martina Hingis in the final there a year ago, she has failed to win another title. Yesterday she beat Arne Gable Sidot, from France, 6-3, 6-2, but it was not as easy as it looked. Sidot put up a spirited challenge and Majoli had to dig herself out of potentially difficult situations in both sets.

Majoli now faces Magdalena Grzybowska on her way to a probable third-round encounter with Hingis.

Life was a lot easier for Anna Kournikova. She whistled through her first-round match against Radka Bobkova, a qualifier from the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-1.

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ANSWERS FROM PAGE 53

CATATHYRIA (b) A condition in which the mind falls under the control of the emotions. In Greek *kata* = according to and *thyria* = spirit, temper. A psychiatric term.
FUMAGINE (c) A black superficial mould on plants, caused by fungi once grouped under the name *Fumago*, and associated with the honeydew produced by certain insect pests. The French word.
BATAK (b) (A member of) a people a people on the island of Palawan, the Philippines. The native name. "Batak: short-statured and brown to dark skinned, they appear to be a composite of Negrito and Malayan type elements."
ETOURDI (c) Thoughtless, irresponsible, flighty. Also, as a substantive, a thoughtless, irresponsible person. The French word. *Thackeray, Vanity Fair*, 1848: "I beg a thousand pardons," said the young boarder, blushing.
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1. Bx7 Qx7; 2. Ngg6+ h4g3; 3. Qh6 checkmate.

سكنا من الامس

A fine yellow line between fact and docu-soap

As a regular driver in London, you are probably only too familiar with the nightmare of being stuck in your car for hours on end, unable to move forwards or backwards...

The Clammers, the first episode of a new docu-soap about the life and times of traffic wardens in the South London borough of Southwark...



REVIEW Joe Joseph

company. Traffic wardens have become an unscratchable itch of city life - too loosely accountable, too militarily dressed...

She rebelled against sham amateurism in which players were given under-the-table bribes to appear against the chauvinism of Bobby Riggs...

Dworkin, and not just because Dworkin's backhand volley can be so terrible (Believe me. Just terrible).

- BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (97725)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (67909)
9.00 Change That A carpenter masterclass and a lesson in Zen minimalism...

- BBC2
6.10am Kedleston Hall (3578096) 6.35 Time for You (5739367)
7.00 Teletubbies (9) (5931744) 7.25 Tom and Jerry Kids (9910251) 7.50 Blue Peter (1)...

- HTV
6.00am GMTV (9855015)
9.25 This Morning (1) (7444788)
9.30 Vanessa (1) (2462577)
10.10 This Morning (1) (98804183)...

- CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
1.00pm A Country Practice (55164)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7469855)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6605560)...

- CHANNEL 4
6.00am Sesame Street (1) (13763)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (83947)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (8297251)
9.22 Lost Animals (8694021) 9.30 Eureka (7644522) 9.45 Slop, Look, Listen (7672305)...

- CHANNEL 5
CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite...

- BBC1 (cont.)
10.05 A Date with Fate (7681893)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8347909)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (4325184)
11.35 The General (8620454)
12.00 News (1) and weather (9086928)...

- BBC2 (cont.)
2.40 News (1) (8804299) 2.45 Westminster (7822367) 3.25 News (1) 3.30 Victorian Kitchen Garden (473)
4.00 Real Rooms (1) (5719222) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (5728909) 4.55 Esther: Unfaithful Partners (6789096) 5.30 Today's the Day (744)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1) (258367)
6.25 Heartbreak High (1) (108589)
7.10 O Zone Special: Nick Cave, Comershop, Asian Dub Foundation (469831)
7.30 Home Ground: The Marriage Machine: A Home Office team investigate 'bogus' marriage ceremonies (1) (993)

- HTV (cont.)
5.10 HTV 30 (2/3) (6805560)
5.40 News (1) and weather (842454)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (245893)
6.25 WALEs: Wales Tonight (1) (457367)
6.25 Regional Weather (893589)
6.30 The West Tonight (1) (763)
6.00 Emmerdale Ned gets a shock when he visits Jan (1) (1473)
7.30 WALEs: Your Channel: HTV The First 30 Years (947)
7.30 Take 3 (947)
8.00 The Bill Tongues wag when Boyden brings in Aston's mother (1) (7893)
8.30 Holding the Baby Book discovers the path of true love is anything but smooth (1) (6923)

- CENTRAL (cont.)
As HTV West except:
1.00pm-1.30 Surprise Chefs (55184)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6605560)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (457367)
7.30-8.00 Craven's Collectables (947)
11.40 Baywatch Nights (263638)
5.00am Freescreen (86139)

- CHANNEL 4 (cont.)
1.50 Racing from York The 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races (2558102)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (676) 4.30 Countdown (1) (111638) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Ricki Helped Me Change My Life... Let Me Help You Change Yours (6774164) 5.30 Pet Rescue (812)
6.00 Roseanne Roseanne and Gary comfort Jackie after she is injured while on duty (1) (725)
6.30 Home Improvement (1) (305)
7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (804893)
7.50 Photo '98 Fold a regeneration of the old Manningham Mills (252763)

- CHANNEL 5 (cont.)
6.00am 5 News and Sport (3344541)
7.00 WideWorld (1) (1) (536102) 7.30 The House of the Future (842656) 8.30 Wimbledon (1) (7333947) 8.30 Havelock (1926638) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1927908)
9.00 Wild World of the East (1) (1941589) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (872164) 10.20 Sunset Beach (1) (1627659) 11.10 Lesza (8214763)
12.00 5 News at Noon (1921725)
12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4818183) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (5337473) 1.30 Live and Laughing (467454)
2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford with the singer and actress Barbara Dickson, Clemens Freud and gardener Stefan Buczacki (2115980)
3.00 100 Per Cent (1992473)
3.30 Neil Simon's London Suite (TVM, 1991) with Kelsey Grammer, Patricia Clarkson and Michael Richards. The misadventures of the guests of a London hotel. Directed by Jay Sanctus (3782218)
5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8160638)
6.00 100 Per Cent (2735589)
6.30 Family Affairs (1) (2719541)
7.00 5 News (1) (1984454)
7.30 Wild World of the East: A World of Islands The Palau island group, east of the Philippines (1) (271525)
8.00 Hidden Wonders: Patagonia's Tuxedo penguins' migration...to Patagonia's desert (1993102)
8.30 Chef School It's graduation day at Le Cordon Bleu cookery school, Dominic upssets chef, Gordon Ramsay from Aubergine, on the last day of his trial period (1969909)
9.00 Light Sleeper (1991) with Willem Dafoe, Susan Sarandon and Dana Delany. Thriller about an insomnia-junkie-turned-detective. Directed by Paul Schrader (1) (4107763)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (6043913)
11.30 Movie Cafe (3243763)
12.00 Live and Dangerous Featuring Australian Rules football and Fedex Championship motor racing from Brazil (4377131)
3.45am Asian Football Show (5739435)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1202322)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (8242619)

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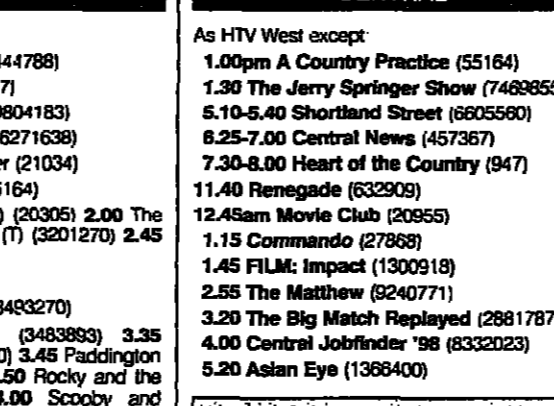
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12.00 Wrestling (6581678) 1.00pm Fish TV (5677008) 2.00pm Sports Classics (6747044) 3.00pm Wrestling (5236669) 3.30 Wrestling (6581678) 4.00pm The Week in Baseball (5787725) 5.00pm Festival of the Fracas (5236669) 5.30pm Football (5677008) 6.00pm Wrestling (5236669) 6.30pm Wrestling (5236669) 7.00pm Football (5677008) 7.30pm Wrestling (5236669) 8.00pm Wrestling (5236669) 8.30pm Wrestling (5236669) 9.00pm Wrestling (5236669) 9.30pm Wrestling (5236669) 10.00pm Wrestling (5236669) 10.30pm Wrestling (5236669) 11.00pm Wrestling (5236669) 11.30pm Wrestling (5236669) 12.00am Wrestling (5236669)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Disappearance (1991) (871m) (5874926) 4.30 The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 5.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 5.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 6.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 6.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 7.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 7.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 8.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 8.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 9.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 9.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 10.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 10.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 11.00pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 11.30pm The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751) 12.00am The Last Days of Pompeii (1977) (100m) (590751)

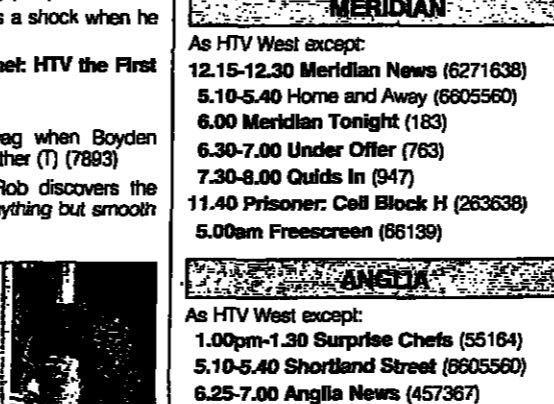
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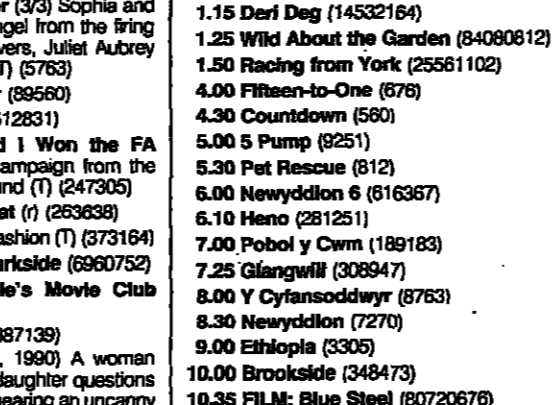
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Autrey and McGuckin unite (9pm)



Golf devotee Chris Evans (6pm)



Drug dealer Willem Dafoe (9pm)



The misadventures of recruits Murray and Ramis (Movies Gold, 9pm)

under a plan... killer ed 62

wife, maid, d... dis... in the... cester... re... vine... club... 'ill live... Soar's... s... for... re... s... being

re-... able... glorify... pub's... the... ged... Buck... unit... to... that... juxton... would... Mary

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FOOTBALL 52

Chelsea warming to prospect of final surge of Zola power

SPORT

TENNIS 54

Henman's hopes resurface after Roman conquest

TUESDAY MAY 12 1998

Hoddle ready to begin juggling act



Anderton: contender

A WHOLE season of striving has passed, a season of yearning for a place among the elite...

There are probably about 20 players guaranteed a place in the 28. It is fair to assume that all those who started England's game against Italy in Rome in October will be in the number...

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, on the choices ahead for the England coach before the World Cup

Wright, one of the starting XI in Rome but only just back in the Arsenal team after a prolonged spell on the sidelines...

turned after a season on the sidelines but, even though he is a confirmed admirer of Le Tissier...

for the game against Saudi Arabia and it is crucial that Hoddle has accomplished cover for the unpredictable and fragile Paul Gascoigne...

Cannabis found in sample

O'Sullivan faces sanctions after failing drug test

By JOHN GOODBODY AND PHIL YATES

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, one of the biggest names in snooker, has failed a drugs test and faces disciplinary action from the game's governing body...

The United Kingdom Sports Council, which administers the testing for governing bodies, refused to comment on the case of O'Sullivan...



O'Sullivan: rapid rise

have proved positive. Should a test prove positive, a disciplinary hearing will be organised by the WPBSA in accordance with its agreed procedure...

O'Sullivan, 22, from Chigwell, Essex, has had a spectacular rise in the sport. He made a century break when he was 10 years old...

Last month, Hunter, who won the Regal Welsh Open, was fined £4,550 by a WPBSA disciplinary committee in Bristol after failing a drugs test...

Hunter, who was ranked 43rd in the world at the time, was ordered to forfeit the 1,140 ranking points he earned at the event...

The biggest scandal of the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, centred round Ross Rebagliati, who was tested positive for cannabis after winning the gold medal in snowboarding...

After initially losing his gold medal, his first place was reinstated by the Independent Court of Arbitration in Sport...

Adams turns on the style



DAVE THOMSON

Paul Adams, the young South Africa bowler whose unusual action was once famously described as resembling a "frog in a blender"...

Celtic's triumph soured by the split with Jansen

By KEVIN MCCARRA

CELTIC yesterday confirmed that Wim Jansen, their head coach, has resigned...

His employers thanked him for his work, but an official statement also claimed that the board believed that his decision was "best for the club"...

Jansen is reported to have had a difficult relationship with Jock Brown, the general manager. At the weekend, however, the head coach implied that the real disagreement lay in the limited scale of the resources being made available to him...

"If you want to spend a lot of money, you can buy important and high-quality players," he said. "Sometimes I have wanted players and not got them."

tight-fisted lack of ambition. The financial situation, however, has been a complex one. Jansen signed nine players for Celtic at a cost of around £12 million...

Celtic were unhappy with Jansen's working practices. "It is unlikely that we would have asked him to continue in the job," McCann said.

The managing director also claimed that Jansen had declined to watch Haraki Brathack in person before signing the forward for £2.2 million in November...

A delicate balancing act has been required to see the team strengthened at the same time as the stadium was rebuilt. The new Celtic Park, whose capacity is about to rise to 60,000...

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'TIMES TWO CROSSWORD' and 'No 1403'.

- ACROSS: 1 Yellow-skin disease (8), 5 Lapdog (abbr); sounds like summit (4), 9 Blunder (5), 10 Edible plant; nonsense (7), 11 Hermione's husband (Winners' Tale) (7), 12 Irritable Mole's friend (Grahame) (5), 13 Dostoevsky's Brothers (9), 18 Of the same value (5), 20 Sheet with cut pattern (7), 22 Old hospital welfare officer (7), 23 Vex (5), 24 Longer forearm bone (4), 25 Towards the sunset (8).

Advertisement for 'LOWEST COST LIFE INSURANCE' by direct life & pension services, featuring a table of rates and contact information.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured and containing text like 'My t in the says' and 'Clin India'.